

Speeches

delivered by

His Excellency

The Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

Governor of Bengal,

during

1926.

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***His Excellency's Speech at the Bengal
Legislative Council, on 17th May 1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

I have summoned you at short notice and at an unusual season to discuss an emergency measure which will be the sole business of this special session and to hear from the Government an explanation of the circumstances which have rendered this measure necessary. I have come to address you in person because the powers which we are asking you to entrust to the Executive are such as can only be justified by very exceptional circumstances, and you are entitled to hear on the authority of the head of the Government what those circumstances are. Gentlemen, the events which have taken place in Calcutta during the last six weeks must be so fresh in the minds of all of you as to need no reminder from me, but I am obliged to review them briefly in order to justify the action which the Government has taken and is now taking to deal with the situation. There has been much discussion both private and public of those events—that was natural enough—much criticism of Government both for what it did and for what it left undone—that too, perhaps, was equally to be expected—but up to now there has been no justification of the measures we have taken. We have been obliged to keep silent as we have been too much occupied in restoring order to concern ourselves with answering criticisms. But we have a right to be heard and you, too, are entitled to hear the

case of the Government, before you express your opinions upon the Bill which you have met to consider.

Let me remind you of the criticisms which have been brought against us.

First we were accused of having failed to anticipate the riots which broke out in Calcutta at the beginning of April or to appreciate their gravity.

Next we were blamed for not having used the military forces at our disposal more effectively in the early days. Men, who would have been the first to denounce us as butchers, if we had done what they now suggest, have not hesitated to tell us that, if we had ordered more firing and killed more people at the beginning, we should have been spared the later phases of the riots and that there would have been a saving of life in the long run.

Then, because the majority of the police are Hindus, Muhammadan critics have felt justified in making a general accusation against them of partiality and even of aiding and abetting their co-religionists in looting Muhammadan property.

Then, we were blamed for sharing the view of every one of our critics that the trouble was at an end when all rioting had ceased and for not having foreseen the recrudescence of rioting which started with a drunken quarrel on 22nd April.

In this second phase we were blamed for not using the military at all and for having failed to prevent the commission of a number of assaults upon private individuals.

Taking the two periods together we have been told that we have shown indifference and incompetence, that we have not used the powers we already possess to get rid of bad characters and that to cover up our own sins of omission we are now asking for new and wholly unnecessary powers, when it is too late for them to be of any use in the present emergency, but which may be put to an improper use in the future in connection with political agitation or trade disputes.

That is the case we have to meet and we shall do our best to meet it; for we realize that, if you believe such charges to be well-founded, you will certainly not feel disposed to entrust us with greater responsibilities and provide us with more effective means of dealing with future emergencies.

Now let me recall to you the circumstances which have given rise to these criticisms and endeavour to meet them. The riots started on Friday, 2nd April. There had been evidence all over India of growing tension between the two communities, but there had been no previous indication that Calcutta was likely to be the battle ground. The first incident was a riot between the Muhammadans and the Hindus over an Arjya Samaj procession. This is not the time nor the place to discuss the question of who were the actual aggressors on that particular occasion. The local police force dealt with the riot and suppressed it, and at the end of that day it was hoped that the outburst would be localized. On the following morning, however, the tension led to further riots and was intensified by attacks on mosques and

temples. The area over which the disturbances spread used up all the police reserves and it became necessary to call out the military. In the next few days there were actually very few occasions on which it was necessary to disperse the mob. The disturbances took the form of looting and isolated assaults; the unruly element almost immediately dispersed as soon as the police or the military appeared. There was absolutely no justification in either the first or the second phase of the riots for any greater demonstration of military force; indiscriminate shooting of innocent people because of the lawless acts of a few would have been a crime. I entirely approve the discretion and restraint displayed by those on the spot in circumstances of great difficulty and the criticism that our action was not more drastic in those first days is, perhaps, the highest praise that can be bestowed upon the Commissioner of Police and those in authority under him. The thanks of the Government and of the citizens of Calcutta are also due to the military authorities who placed their troops so readily at the disposal of the civil power and who allowed them to remain on mere police duty some time after all actual rioting had ceased in order to restore confidence. This confidence would probably have come at an earlier date but for the fact that a Hindu and a Muhammadan festival occurred on the 13th and 14th of April respectively and led to great uneasiness on the part of both communities. After these festivals had passed off quietly, business resumed its normal course and there was no apparent reason to anticipate any recurrence of these disturbances; then, but not till then, the

troops were withdrawn but police pickets were still kept on the streets.

With regard to the charges brought against the Hindu police in the first riots, I have only this to say that every well-supported accusation will be fully investigated and this would have been done by this time had not the later riots intervened and occupied the whole time of the Commissioner of Police. I cannot, of course, claim that every member of the police force is able to shed all human sympathies and emotions, when he joins the force, or deny that individual constables may have allowed their sympathy with their co-religionists to interfere with their duty. In fact four constables have been dismissed from the force for having taken part in the looting of Muhammadan property. There will be no screening of individuals who are proved to have failed in their duty. But with policemen, as with soldiers, we do claim, that the discipline of their service is sufficient to protect them from a general suspicion of partiality and I do not admit that the discipline of the whole force was found wanting in the recent riots. I cannot too strongly deprecate the general and unsupported charges which have been made and which only tend to accentuate communal bitterness. Charges of the gravest character have in fact been submitted to me in writing unsupported by evidence which can be tested and based on no more authority than such vague phrases as "if my information is correct," "I am told," "it is said," "a Muhammadan student reports," etc. If Hindu police officers are to be mistrusted by Muhammadans and Muhammadan officers are to be mistrusted by Hindus, the only

conclusion we should be forced to is that Indian police cannot be employed to keep order in India—a conclusion which I absolutely refuse to accept.

Within a week of the withdrawal of the military the disorder broke out again without any sort of adequate cause. The police adopted the same tactics as before, picketting the main roads and crossings and employing a regular system of motor and foot patrols. Although, there were clashes of mobs of the two communities the police were quite competent to disperse them. There was no organized disturbance such as to necessitate the assistance of a military force beyond the armoured cars. There was only one occasion of serious firing when an armoured car was attacked, and there was no justification for the declaration of martial law or for the use of a military force to deal with the disturbance. An ugly feature of these second riots was a series of brutal and cowardly murders of individuals and no amount of military force could have prevented these.

These murders were rendered possible by the existence in the city of a class of hooligans belonging to both communities to whom violent crime was not abhorrent. To the goonda element, which exists in the city at all times and which the police are engaged in clearing out by the slow but effective provisions of the Goonda Act, a new element has recently been added arising in the first instance out of the growing tension between the Hindu and Moslem communities and accentuated by the panic created by the first riots. Both sides have imported men from up-country both for their individual protection and for the strengthening of

their communal forces. That, gentlemen, has been the chief cause of the recent riots and that still constitutes the chief menace to the peace of Calcutta. So long as that element remains there can be no tranquility. If it is not quickly removed it will go on increasing. If individuals are allowed to surround themselves with unauthorized guardians and if the commission of one outrage is to be claimed as justification for the commission of another by way of retaliation, then the authorized guardians of the law cannot be responsible for maintaining order. The problem, therefore, before us is how are we most effectively to rid Calcutta of this dangerous element imported from up-country and arm the regular police force of the city with sufficient powers to protect the lives and property of defenceless citizens. The demand that citizens should be allowed to arm themselves and become responsible for their own defence leads straight to the conditions of the jungle and the issue before you, therefore, is between the rule of law by which civilized communities are governed or the rule of claw by which the beasts preserve their lives. This brings me to the last criticism we have to meet, and the case for the Bill you have met to discuss.

The charge is that we have already the power to deal with these imported hooligans, that we have not used them and that, if we used them vigorously, there would be no need for the summary powers we are asking for. The charge is based on ignorance both of the problem and of the existing law. The problem is not merely a goonda problem and it cannot be solved by the application of the Goonda

Act alone. The criminal element in Calcutta known as goondas has figured in the recent riots, but as I have already pointed out the danger from that element has been greatly increased by the recent importation of what I can only describe as unauthorized guardians or communal champions. Many of these men are not goondas at all, but their presence is a menace to the peace of the city and many of them have taken part in the recent outrages. There is no provision of the existing law by which we can get rid of them and in times of rioting their presence greatly increases the danger of disorder. If this Bill is passed, it will be possible for us to deal with this new danger and thereby lessen the chances of a fresh outbreak. But remember that the powers of the Bill are limited to a state of emergency and in no way affect the normal establishment of durwans or men from other parts of India who have a legitimate occupation in Calcutta. It is generally agreed that the recent disturbers of the peace did not belong to the normal population of Calcutta but were strangers in our midst. We have already arrested a large number of those persons against whom this Bill is directed and have induced most of them to leave Calcutta. If the Bill is not passed, there will be nothing to prevent the return of these bad characters and those now in custody will have to be released.

"There are some who think that all is now quiet, that the danger is past and that as the powers of Government to bring about peace were sufficient, there is no need for the powers we are asking for. Gentlemen, it was only the knowledge that we intended to ask for these powers, it was only the

belief that they would be given to us that have enabled us to secure the degree of tranquillity which we have reached. Let me explain.

In spite of the great strain on the police during the last few weeks and the increased picketting of the streets which they have had to undertake, they have systematically raided the known haunts of the criminal class. They have arrested not only goondas against whom orders under the Goonda Act can, in due course, be executed, but many others whom they had reason to suspect had come to Calcutta recently for no worthy purpose. Being powerless to deal with such men, after their arrest, the police applied to Government for the special powers which we are now asking you to provide in this Bill. In the belief that these would be granted the campaign against the hooligans has been continued up to now and a large number of them, who could not be dealt with under the Goonda Act, were persuaded to leave Calcutta before the new powers came into existence, while a still larger number of the smaller fry left Calcutta in apprehension that measures were being taken against them. Unless this Bill becomes law, there is nothing to prevent those men returning, and, if they do return, the police have no means of dealing with them. In addition to those who have left there still remains in Calcutta a large number of such men who cannot be dealt with effectively under the Goonda Act, and who, though at present disorganized, constitute a very real danger in the event of any further recrudescence of the disturbances.

Such, gentlemen, is the case for the Bill which you have been summoned to consider. It is for you to say how far the emergency is sufficiently serious to justify the remedy, and how far the remedy is adequate to meet the emergency. Since I came to Calcutta I have had many personal interviews with men of all political parties, both Hindu and Muhammadan; every one of them has described the imported hooligan element as responsible for the recent troubles and every one has begged me to arm Government with the necessary powers to deal with it. There was an absolute consensus of opinion on this matter, while public anxiety still prevailed, and I beg you, now that that anxiety has for the moment been relieved, not to misjudge the situation and not to be lulled into a false sense of security. You owe the present quiet to the expectation of this Bill. It can only be maintained and increased by the passage of this Bill. If you reject it you will be depriving yourselves of the only guarantee against a recurrence of the ugly scenes which have recently brought so grievous a reproach upon the fair name of this great city.

I have only one more word to say in conclusion. You may accept everything I have said so far, you may admit the evil, approve the diagnosis and acknowledge the suitability of the remedy, and yet hesitate to arm the Executive with the powers we are asking for, unless we can satisfy you that having secured them for one purpose they will not be used for another. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to show that we have limited the use of these emergency powers to an emergency to which they are applicable.

First, then, I would ask you to note that we are not asking for permanent powers to be used in normal times but only for use in an emergency which is limited to three months. Although, therefore, the powers will be exercised by the Commissioner of Police, they cannot be so exercised whenever he pleases, but only with the authority of the Government after the latter has declared an emergency to exist and has published the reasons for such a declaration. Even then every order which he issues is subject to the control of the Government. It is a mistake, therefore, to describe these as powers given to the police; they are in fact powers given to the Local Government. There is a complete safeguard that the powers of the Bill shall only be used in an emergency.

The decision as to whether or not an emergency exists is of necessity left to the Executive, since it is essentially an executive responsibility. Lest any one should be afraid that these powers may be abused, I would point out that in Bombay the police have been empowered by section 27 of the City of Bombay Police Act, 1902, not merely in an emergency, but at any time to remove persons whose presence in the town causes, or is thought likely to cause, danger or alarm—a more general power than we are asking for here and one which has been in force for the last 25 years without any suggestion that it has ever been abused. In this case fortunately no political considerations are involved, nor does this Bill raise any communal issues. It will be possible, therefore, I hope, for you to discuss it without any heat or prejudice.

The safety and tranquillity of Calcutta is the only issue and I trust that you will debate it with a due sense of responsibility. Gentlemen, I now leave that issue in your hands in the confident expectation that you will give to it the careful attention which the importance of the subject deserves and that your decision will reflect the calm judgment of responsible citizens.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the new building for the Queen Hill
Girls' School in Darjeeling, on 26th
May 1926.***

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS STAHL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

My knowledge of this school and its history is derived from the reports which have been read to us to-day and from the appreciative account of it which Lady Lytton gave me when she returned from laying the foundation-stone in June 1924. I understand that this fine new building, which you have asked me formally to declare open to-day, was actually completed and occupied in March. It is, of course, a very common practice for a building to be occupied before it is opened, and the fact in this case is symbolic of the event which we are celebrating. This is not a new school founded for the first time, it is not a new work which is to take place in this building but rather an old work which has entered upon a new stage, a school, which has already a life of 30 years and a well-established reputation, which has found a new home. It is that new home and that new epoch in the life of the Queen's Hill School that we are formally inaugurating to-day. I congratulate you on the accomplishment of this happy event, and I pray that the work of your school may be blessed in its new and beautiful home.

The environment which the founder of the school aimed at acquiring has, indeed, been found here. The struggles, the difficulties and the delays

which have been necessary to the realization of her ideal will but add to your pride in your ultimate success and the possession of this fine new building should increase the value of the work which you will now be able to do. Important, however, as is the completion of these buildings for the welfare and inspiration of the girls and the immediate purposes of the school, it really represents something more than the rebuilding of the old Queen's Hill School. For a further stage has been reached in the completion of the comprehensive scheme, which the American Methodist Episcopal Mission has undertaken for the benefit of the European and domiciled communities in Bengal. The complete scheme of development, I understand, contemplates the establishment of four schools in Bengal—two in Calcutta and two in Darjeeling. The high schools for girls and boys are already doing excellent work in Calcutta in providing for those children in the plains, whose parents are unable to bear the comparatively high expenses of education in the hills. Residents of Darjeeling already recognize the very valuable work which the old Queen's Hill School has been doing here, and we are confident that this transfer to the new and better site, which the Mission has acquired, will mark the beginning of a period of increased prosperity. There remains now only the addition of the boys' school to complete the whole scheme. You have reached the third storey of your educational mansion and, knowing what I do of the Mission's ideals and determination, I feel confident that you will not rest content until you have completed the structure by adding the fourth storey. The Mission's educational work

will then have been welded into a single comprehensive unit and will gain strength by the co-ordination of the four schools in a single whole under the direction of a central policy, to which each school will contribute and react. The completion of the scheme will give full play to the ideals which inspire the policy of the Mission and which prompted them to undertake their great enterprise. Such group units as this, which conform and contribute to the general educational system of the province and of which there are other examples among the Missionary bodies operating in Bengal, provide a complete system of education for the children of the class for which they cater.

I have frequently had occasion to congratulate the great missionary bodies which have done such splendid pioneer work in the field of education and to acknowledge the debt of gratitude which Government owes to them for shouldering these responsibilities and thus enabling public revenues to be expended in other directions. This is the first occasion on which I have been personally associated with the enterprise of this particular Mission and I welcome the opportunity of thanking them most sincerely on behalf of the Government of Bengal for the very valuable work which they have been doing among the European and domiciled communities. It is, indeed, a cause for admiration and gratitude that an American Missionary Society should contribute so generously in money, time and labour for the benefit of our children in Bengal and the enthusiasm, humanity and love, which this very fact denotes, are the best guarantee for the success of their enterprise. Let

me, in conclusion, congratulate the staff and the students on the beautiful home which the generosity of distant patrons has provided for them. I hope that the new surroundings will instil them with fresh inspirations and with a determination to prove themselves worthy of the confidence and liberality of their well-wishers.

It is a matter of great regret to all of us that Bishop and Mrs. Fisher, to whose vision and faith the consummation of your dreams is so largely due, cannot be with us to day, but I feel sure they will be delighted to learn of the enthusiasm which has attended this ceremony. Lady Lytton, too, will, I know, be pleased to hear from me next month about the beauties of the building which has risen upon the foundation-stone she laid two years ago. She spoke to you on that occasion of the value of a childhood without fears and of the educational value of happiness in early life. Happy, fearless children you have already shown that you can produce. I hope that in these new surroundings they will be able to receive new ideals inspired by the unrivalled beauty of the scene on which their eyes will daily rest. Made intimate thus with the most beautiful features of the earth they will learn, I hope, to recognize and appreciate the most beautiful features of humanity. It is my firm belief that we all find in life that which we look for. In every garden there are thorns and nettles and slugs and worms, as well as flowers and butterflies and birds. Those who look only for the nettles and the worms will find them and they should not complain, but even among cabbages the butterflies flit, flowers will grow out of manure and in the old boot or

broken pot the robin may build his nest. For those who have eyes trained to recognize beauty and minds capable of loving it, beauty is everywhere to be found. Train your children, therefore, to appreciate the beauty of the unique surroundings in which their school is situated; teach them to lift up their eyes unto the hills and to recognize in them the source of their salvation. With eyes and hearts so trained, they will then come to recognize that which is beautiful, that which is august, that which is lovable in humanity and you can send them forth confidently into the world to encounter life.

“Life, not the daily coil, but as it is
 Lived in its beauty in eternity,
 Above base aim, beyond our miseries;
 Life that is speed and colour and bright bliss
 And beauty seen and strained for and possessed
 Even as a star forever in the breast.”

Speeches

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His Excellency

Sir Hugh Stephenson, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.,

Acting Governor of Bengal,

during

1926.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech on the occasion of opening the
"Baby Clinic" in Darjeeling, on 18th
June 1926.***

MRS. FARQUHARSON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

It may appear strange that it should be so, but the fact remains that it is only of very recent years that the problem of Child Welfare has seriously engaged the practical interest of social workers in Bengal. "Baby Week," which drew our attention to the appalling conditions in which children were born and brought up during their earliest months, and to the ignorance of the most elementary principles of hygiene, gave a very great impetus to the movement and impressed upon us the truth that if the health of a nation as a whole is to be improved, our energies must be directed, in the first instance, to the amelioration of the conditions in which the babies start their lives. The poorer mothers have not the opportunities or the means which others have for giving their children pure milk and for bringing them up in conditions most conducive to health, and so the poorer parts of the town provide the scope for this kind of work.

I am glad to see that Darjeeling has not been behind-hand in establishing a clinic, where the principles of hygiene can be taught and applied. It is greatly to the credit of the ladies, who have undertaken this work, that they realized the pressing urgency of the problem and did not, therefore,

wait before beginning their activities, until they could obtain a building of their own for the purpose. While they directed their efforts to raising money for securing and equipping a permanent clinic, they began their work at once in an improvised building, and I am glad to hear that the results have been satisfactory. Darjeeling is a place where demands are made on the purse of the public for many deserving movements and institutions and it is, therefore, all the more creditable that your Committee has succeeded in raising the sum necessary for your purpose, and now that you have a clinic adapted and equipped as it should be, we may look for even more valuable results. This clinic will give the babies of the poorer classes a greater chance to live and grow up robust citizens; not only will it provide pure food in necessary cases, but it will teach the mothers the importance of pure milk, clean surroundings and regular diet and treatment and will show them with what little effort these conditions can be secured. The observance of such conditions will thus become a habit, and in this way the influence of the clinic will be felt not only by those who come to it for treatment, but among succeeding generations.

The attendance at the clinic of the ladies who have enrolled themselves as active members, will ensure its efficient management and a sustained interest in its activities, and I cannot close without expressing the gratitude of Darjeeling to these ladies, to Dr. and Mrs. Farquharson and to all others who have contributed to the success of the scheme.

In declaring the Baby Clinic open, I hope that this new building will give the Committee and workers increased scope for carrying on their beneficent work and will enable a larger number of mothers and children to benefit by the facilities which it provides.

*Address presented by the Commissioners of the
Krishnagar Municipality, on 28th June 1926.*

1. We, the Commissioners of the Krishnagar Municipality, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with our sincere and loyal welcome on the occasion of your auspicious visit to this town of ours.

2. Occupying as it once did the position of a premier city of Bengal, our memories spontaneously go back to the distant past when ours was the glorious capital of the Nadia Raj, renowned for its scholastic and other intellectual attainments, no less for the prosperity of its arts and industries. To the misfortune of its inhabitants all its old glories have now become a mere matter of past history, and a town, which could once boast of being a health resort of the province, has generally degenerated into a dreadful hot-bed of Malaria and *Kala-azar*. And though we have been struggling heroically and persistently to keep back the ravages of destruction, our task, principally in the maintenance of an efficient system of drainage service, has proved financially insuperable owing largely to the disappearance of all natural outlets for superfluous water both by the silting up of water courses, such as Anjana, etc., and by the short-sighted policy of building houses too closely to allow passage for free flow of water.

3. It is only on an occasion like the present one that we have the rare opportunity of meeting the ruler of the province and of laying before him such of our grievances as are beyond our means to redress all by ourselves; and we, as representatives

of the rate-payers of the town, shall, therefore, be failing in our duty, if we do not respectfully press now upon Your Excellency the dire necessity of financing entirely from the Provincial Exchequer both (1) the drainage scheme, as prepared long ago by Your Excellency's Government in the Department of Public Health, for the most congested northern portion of the town, and (2) also that part of the Anjana project which concerns the central and southern portion of the Municipality.

4. The Sadar Charitable Dispensary and Hospital, in spite of the pretty large contribution it receives from the Municipality, is in a perpetual state of financial embarrassment, and unless your Government be graciously pleased to offer it an increased grant for the civil stores and a special grant to wipe off its present deficit and for its equipment, much of its humanitarian activities will cease to function.

5. Lastly, Your Excellency will permit us to draw your attention to the unfortunate and serious break down of a part of the waterworks machinery which has at last launched us into a situation in which we have been reduced to the necessity of begging your Government for a small grant of Rs. 5,000 for the thorough repairs of the damaged engine, specially in consideration of the fact that we have now the maximum percentage of local taxation leviable under the Act and with no sufficient funds to meet our normal wants even after recent revision of assessment.

6. In concluding our long tale of woes and distress, we beg respectfully to pray Your Excellency's long and happy life in the wake of more pompous and brilliant career.

[Revised.]

Address to be presented by the Members of the Nadia District Board, on 28th June 1926.

1. We, the members of the Nadia District Board, beg, on behalf of the people of Nadia, to offer to Your Excellency our most respectful, sincere, and hearty welcome on the auspicious occasion of this the first visit of Your Excellency as Governor to the head-quarters station of our district, and to express, through Your Excellency, our unswerving loyalty and sincere devotion to the illustrious person and throne of His Imperial Majesty the King-Emperor.

2. The present is an occasion to bring to Your Excellency's personal notice the principal matters affecting the welfare of our district, and we would be failing in our duty, if we do not take this opportunity to mention some of our pressing needs.

3. The first of these which, we feel, should be placed before Your Excellency, is the extremely unhealthy condition of the district due mostly to the scarcity of good drinking water. The satisfactory solution of this vital problem lies in a liberal distribution of wells all over the district and tanks in selected places. With the limited resources at their disposal, the District Board contrived to spend a large percentage of the public works cess receipts on water-supply, but with the growing demands of medical relief a large portion of the available resources of the Board had to be diverted to the establishment of 18 additional dispensaries in the course of the last three years, involving an additional

cost of Rs. 24,109, and there has consequently been a reduction in the allotment for water-supply. In spite of the most economic management all round to meet the pressing demand of providing an adequate measure of relief for 3,411 villages, no less than 12 lakhs of rupees would be necessary, and this is too great for the District Board's ordinary resources. It was in these circumstances that an application for a loan of Rs. 50,000 only was made to the Government, last year, but unfortunately it received no favourable response. Yet we are not disheartened, and we earnestly hope and pray for assistance from Your Excellency's Government, both in the shape of a contribution as well as of a loan, to carry out a programme of not more than five years to complete our scheme of rural water-supply to ameliorate for the present the condition of at least half the number of villages in this district and at the same time stabilize the Board's resources. The District Board of Nadia are trying their best for the sanitary improvement of the district by the employment of *Kala-azar* doctors, establishment of Anti-malarial Co-operative Societies and in various other ways. Even so, no lasting benefit can accrue unless measures for water-supply are more widely taken. We, therefore, pray in particular for the boon of a grant of Rs. 5,00,000, half as donation and half as loan, on the usual rate of interest, repayable in 30 years, a portion of the sum being paid in the current year, and the balance by instalments in the near future. The distribution of the augmentation grant on a need basis, which this District Board so strongly advocated in the years past, may also be more liberally made, as far as this District Board is concerned.

4. We beg to express our gratitude for the completion of the Krishnagar-Nabadwip Ghat Light Railway which Your Excellency is to open during your visit. This represents the fulfilment of a prayer made in our address of December 1923 to Your Excellency's illustrious predecessor. We are thereby emboldened to draw Your Excellency's attention to the need of a railway through the Meherpur subdivision from Jellinghi *via* Meherpur to Krishnagar and to hope that this project may find a higher if not the highest place in the list of contemplated schemes of railway extension.

5. As the last, though not the least, we respectfully beg leave to re-iterate our prayer for making over the income from the provincial ferries in the district to this Board which will enable it to extend its activities in the sphere of the expansion and improvement of the Union Boards.

6. In conclusion, we beg to offer our heartfelt thanks to Your Excellency for the honour done to us by this visit which we shall, for ever, gratefully remember, and we most fervently hope that Your Excellency's tenure of office may be happy and prosperous, and may the kind Providence grant you a long and happy life.

Address presented by the Members of the Nadia Anjuman Ettetfaque Islam, on 28th June 1926.

1. We, the members of the Nadia Anjuman Ettetfaque Islam, beg leave to approach Your Excellency with our hearty, loyal and respectful welcome on the occasion of Your Excellency's auspicious visit to the city of Krishnagar. For the opportunity so graciously afforded to us to welcome Your Excellency in the district of Nadia with its historic associations for the Mussalman in Bengal, we cannot, but be deeply grateful—no less impressed by the solemnity of the occasion to-day.

2. The Mussalman, though forming over 60 per cent. of the total population in this district, have yet to make up a great leeway in the matter of education, and we beg to draw the attention of Your Excellency and Your Excellency's Government to the need of a Mussalman hostel attached to the Krishnagar College. We do not say this in any narrow spirit, that if the demand for residential accommodation for Mussalman students has to be deferred till residential accommodation for other students are fully met, simply on numerical grounds, the future of Mussalman education is certainly not very hopeful. At the same time provision of any makeshift mess for the accommodation of Mussalman students, detached from college life and atmosphere, and in gloomy and insanitary surroundings is not what is helpful to the growth of expansion of the mind and the general outlook

of students. We have, therefore, earnestly to plead to Your Excellency and to Your Excellency's Government to sanction the proposal and make provisions in the supplementary budget for the necessary amount of money, for a Mussalman hostel sufficient to accommodate at least 15 students which is the present number in the Mussalman mess attached to the college,—a proposal which is possibly now pending before Your Excellency's Government.

3. With a view to give impetus to Mussalman education it is urgently necessary that the Government should have a Junior Madrassa in the district. The maintenance of a well-equipped Madrassa for a poor community is one of great financial difficulty, and we earnestly plead that the management of the Ezechiel Junior Madrassa may be taken up either as a separate institution or as a part of, and attached to, the Krishnagar Collegiate School.

4. The bulk of the Mussalmans in the district belong to rural areas and are deeply interested in the problem of its river and waterways. The Nadia rivers are slowly decaying. Beels and khals are gradually drying up—lately choked up with water hyacinth, and there has been consequential deterioration in the productive capacity of the soil of this district. The agriculturist class is the greater sufferer from this, apart from the other growing problems, such as scarcity of drinking water and of diseases, such as Malaria, and *Kala-azar*, etc. We are deeply grateful to Your Excellency's Government and also to the Hon'ble the Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia, the Member in charge of Irrigation, for taking up the Bhairab scheme, which, we hope, will

have a quick execution. We, however, earnestly plead that the conditions of the other Nadia rivers and channels would be carefully examined, and steps should be taken to keep them at least open as flood-water channels.

5. We have also to draw Your Excellency's attention to the singular fact that the provisions of the Agricultural and Sanitary Drainage Act on which hopes were so much built some years back, could not be availed of in even a single instance, and Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to consider its provisions, and specially its rules with a view to incorporate a real, practical and business-like method, so that at least smaller schemes and even big schemes that may be conveniently split up into smaller schemes, may be quickly and conveniently taken up and executed,—not only of agricultural and sanitary improvement, but as also smaller irrigation schemes. It is only by this that we venture to hope a better, brighter life in our rural life, and on this we send up this appeal to Your Excellency.

6. We respectfully beg, in conclusion, to assure Your Excellency of the heartiness and cordiality of our welcome and pray to the Almighty for Your Excellency's long, happy and prosperous life and career.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
reply to the Addresses presented at
Krishnagar, on 28th June 1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

When my friend and colleague, the Maharaja Bahadur, asked me to visit Krishnagar to open a Union Board Conference, I gladly accepted the hospitality which he offered me on your behalf and his. I had heard that Nadia had made very good progress along the road opened by the Village Self-Government Act and I welcomed the opportunity which such a visit would give me of seeing and hearing at first hand of your activities in other directions also.

Gentlemen, I thank you very much for the cordial welcome you have given me and for your expression of loyalty to His Majesty the King-Emperor.

You have naturally taken advantage of my presence here to bring to my notice the various problems with which you are faced and the more immediate needs which you desire to see satisfied, and I shall take the opportunity of explaining to you the attitude of Government towards them.

As both the Municipality and the District Board have placed the question of public health in the forefront of their addresses, I may infer that they attach the greatest importance to this aspect of their responsibilities, and I am very glad to find that they do so, as I also regard it as the foundation on which the material prosperity of a district must be built.

As a result of His Excellency Lord Lytton's visit to Krishnagar in 1923, the Chief Engineer of the Public Health Department was asked to prepare a new drainage scheme. This was done and the estimate amounted to over 2½ lakhs of rupees, but it has not been found possible to give effect to the scheme because Government and the Municipality do not see eye to eye as to the method of financing it. You quite naturally—from your own point of view—ask Government to bear the whole cost, we insist on your paying a certain proportion. Our rule, from which we deviate only in exceptional cases and for very strong reasons, is that for such a project as this Government will provide one-third of the initial cost, if the local body will find the rest. The reasons we insist on such a rule are that a drainage or waterworks scheme is essentially one which will benefit only a limited locality and that its cost, therefore, should not be met entirely from funds collected from the whole province; moreover, the local contribution is a test of the sincerity of the locality in its demands, and finally in this way Government is able to help the largest number of schemes. I admit, however, that the incidence of taxation here is already high for a Municipality like Krishnagar and this might constitute a special reason for considering the possibility of making a grant larger than the usual one-third, so that if you will undertake to bear a substantial portion of the cost by raising contributions and by taking a loan, we on our side will undertake to consider whether we cannot give you specially favourable terms.

With regard to the Rs. 5,000 which you say you require for repairing the engine of the waterworks, I would advise you to make an application to Government, but I must point out that, if you had observed the rules regarding the expert examination of your machinery, this situation would probably not have arisen and I am afraid this omission may prejudice your chances of receiving any help.

The District Board has impressed upon me the scarcity of good drinking water in the rural areas and has suggested a contribution of 5 lakhs of rupees, half as a grant and half as a loan from Government. Government, in spite of allegations to the contrary, are fully alive to the immense importance of this question to the well-being of Bengal, but it is not a problem that can be solved by the Central Government but must be tackled by the local authorities. All we can do is to stimulate the local authorities and we have endeavoured to do this by making a provincial grant, which is allotted amongst the Divisional Commissioners, and I understand that Nadia received Rs. 15,000 last year and is likely to receive the same amount this year. This is, of course, small in comparison with your requirements, and I sympathize with your desire to hasten the fulfilment of this great need. But there is no justification for singling out this district for a special grant from provincial revenues, that is at the cost of the rest of the province, and the question of your taking a loan is dependent on your ability to finance it. But if heroic measures are not possible, I would suggest that the best use be made of the money that is available. If the work is carried out by the Union

Boards and is regarded as merely supplementing local contributions, in money and labour—and the object of the Government grant is to encourage these—the most economical and effective use can be made of the money; for this will stimulate the Boards to raise their share of the cost and will eliminate the intermediate expenses, while the people who benefit by the wells may be expected to keep them in repair. And I understand that some such system has been adopted in this district with excellent results and that a great deal of preliminary work has been done by the completion of a census of all sources of water-supply and the preparation of a programme on the basis of the comparative urgency in the various villages. This is an excellent plan enabling you to make steady and systematic progress as funds become available.

I am afraid, however, that I cannot admit that your argument regarding the claims of medical relief is a valid one. It is for the District Board to weigh up the comparative urgency of the need for dispensaries and water-supply, and you should adjust your expenditure in one of these directions with due consideration to the recurring commitments which such a policy will involve and to the needs in the other directions. Active and responsible membership of a District Board is no sinecure, but demands far-sighted prudence and careful thought and co-operation.

Another matter which the Municipality has brought to my notice is the financial embarrassment of the charitable dispensary. The Local Self-Government Department, of which the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur is the Member in charge, are

considering the possibility of increasing the Government grants for civil stores and I hope that you will shortly receive orders increasing your grant. Government is also reviewing the whole question of the assistance given by the Local Government to mufassal hospitals. I shall be visiting the dispensary to-morrow and perhaps you will then be able to persuade me to make a small donation towards the purchase of the equipment which you require.

The request of the Anjuman for the construction of a hostel attached to the Krishnagar College has been considered: the scheme has been administratively approved and the Education Department will press for its provision in next year's budget.

I regret, however, it will not be possible to provincialize the Ezechiel Junior Madrassa, as this is contrary to the policy which we have definitely accepted. If, however, you can satisfy the Inspector of Schools that your present monthly grant requires to be increased, such a request will receive favourable consideration.

You attribute the increasing unhealthiness of this district in large measure to the silting up of its old river system, and the remedy for this appears to lie either in the resuscitation of those rivers or in filling them up entirely, and for obvious reasons the former is the more satisfactory alternative if it can be achieved. The Municipality has cited the instance of the Anjana Canal, which directly affects the town, and you ask that the project for improving this channel should be taken up at Government expense. Now all such schemes

are very complicated, as they are conditioned by the vagaries of the larger rivers from which these river systems take off, in this case the Ganges, and the interests of agriculture, communications and public health have all to be reconciled. As a result of discussion between the various departments, to whose charge these interests have been committed, it has been decided that it would be useless to attempt to open the Anjana River in Krishnagar itself and that the only course would be for you gradually to fill up the old bed of the river and then either canalize it for local draining or close it up completely; meanwhile investigation should be made into the possibility of introducing silt-laden water into the Halder Khal for flushing purposes and, if this proves a failure, I am afraid the Anjana scheme will have to be dropped once and for all. I do not know whether the Municipality is prepared to carry out this work; but if so, and if Government are informed what it is likely to cost, we could consider the question of making some contribution towards it.

Work has already been begun on the Bhairab scheme and investigations are being carried out into the conditions of other rivers and channels. You will see, therefore, that Government is alive to the importance of these problems.

The District Board asks for a liberal interpretation in its favour of the new principle on which the distribution of the augmentation grant is now based. Half of the grant is now distributed by the Divisional Commissioner on the basis of the needs of each district and I understand that you have already benefited by the change in the system.

Another request you make is the old one for the transfer of the ferry receipts from provincial revenues to the District Board. The question whether the Local Government can afford to sacrifice this part of its provincial assets and, if so, how and to whom the income should be made over is being considered, but it is a difficult question and I cannot prophesy what will be the outcome of it. But when I hear this request made by you, I am inclined to answer "Physician, heal thyself;" for I am told that except in 15 cases you have not as yet made over the administration of the pounds to the Union Boards. The advantage of making the Union Boards responsible for the pounds can be seen from the results in those 15 instances, in all of which the income has been increased with beneficial results to the schools of the Unions and a stimulating effect upon the progress of the newly-formed boards.

The District Board has aptly shown its gratitude for the construction of the light railway to Nabadwip by asking for increased railway communication within the Meherpur subdivision. Such projects have to compete with those in other parts of the province and so it takes time to complete all the schemes. However, this particular extension is gradually working its way up the list in the order of urgency and it is only a question of time, I imagine, before it is undertaken.

The Anjuman has drawn attention to the fact that very little use has been made of the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act and requests that the machinery for working it may be simplified. I agree with you that insufficient advantage

has been taken of the provisions of the Act and whether this is due to any inherent difficulties in the procedure laid down by the Act or to the natural reluctance to test a new method, I cannot say, but enquiries are being made of the Divisional Commissioners on the whole policy of dealing with sanitary schemes under this Act.

I have now, I think, dealt with all the matters which you have raised in your addresses. If I have not been able to give you as favourable replies as you might have hoped, you must not attribute it to lack of interest or sympathy. The machinery of Government must necessarily work slowly, where there are so many conflicting interests to be reconciled. It would be so simple to grant you large sums of money—to the prejudice of other districts or other local bodies; but Government, as the trustee of the public revenues, must carry out its duties in this respect impartially, economically and effectively. But even if the immediate response to your requests may be small, a visit such as this has the effect of reminding me and through me the whole Government of the needs which you consider most pressing and of rivetting our attention to the importance of helping local bodies to the best of our ability to discharge the varied functions with which they are now entrusted.

I thank you once again for the welcome you have given me and I look forward to spending the next two days in your midst.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Address to the Reoplients of Sānads
at Krishnagar, on 28th June 1926.***

RAI PRAN GOPAL MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

Throughout your 27 years' service in the Postal Department, from which you retired last year, you showed conspicuous ability in the discharge of your duties. Your work, whether as Superintendent of Post Offices in various parts of this Presidency and Bihar, or as Deputy Postmaster-General, was uniformly marked with zeal and devotion to the interests of the department and of the public; and you displayed considerable powers of organization in providing and extending postal facilities in the rural areas.

I congratulate you most sincerely on this recognition of your able and devoted service.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI AZIZUL HUQUE,

You have always used your great influence in this district on the side of law and order and, while championing the cause of Moslem education, you have done your best to promote good will between the two communities and between Government and the people. You have cheerfully undertaken public service for the betterment of conditions in this district and you have proved yourself a keen and active member of the District Board and of the Krishnagar Municipality.

I congratulate you on the title which has been conferred upon you and I hope that this district will continue to have the benefit of your assistance for many years.

RĀI NALINAKSHYA DATTA BAHADUR,

You are the worthy scion of one of the oldest zamindar families in this district and you have won an enviable reputation for the cordiality of your relationship with your tenants and your brother landlords alike. You have always been found most helpful, you have done valuable work as an Honorary Magistrate and you have recently shown your liberality by a generous contribution towards the establishment of a charitable dispensary.

I congratulate you and the district which you have served so well.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the unveiling of the Tablet
in Memory of Rai Bhupendra Nath
Chatarji Bahadur at Krishnagar, on
29th June 1926.***

MR. GRAHAM AND GENTLEMEN,

The spontaneous gift of this tablet by the officers and men of the police force in Nadia is a striking testimony to the respect and esteem in which the late Rai Bahadur was held and the grief which his dastardly murder evoked. As Mr. Graham has reminded us, it was in Nadia district that the Rai Bahadur laid the foundations of his distinguished career and it is in the fitness of things, therefore, that this fact should be commemorated by a tablet in Krishnagar. Enlisting as a writer-constable 26 years ago, his conspicuous ability early marked him out for promotion to the rank of Sub-Inspector. This was but the beginning of his remarkable career, and by sheer force of character and keenness of intellect he worked his way up until he reached the high post, which he occupied at the time of his death.

He was endowed with a special capacity for intelligence work and his very success in this direction exposed him to constant danger, but his courage and loyalty never faltered; his work was often performed at a great sacrifice of personal leisure and social popularity; but this did not deter him from his unceasing efforts to combat revolutionary crime. By his death Government have

lost a gallant and loyal officer whose courage and devotion were the admiration of all who came in contact with him and his work.

The company which is present here to-day bears witness to the respect and affection with which he was regarded by the general public, as well as by the police, and this tablet will remind successive generations of police officers and men of a very gallant gentleman and will inspire them to emulate his example of loyalty and courage.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the opening of the Union
Board Conference at Krishnagar, on
29th June 1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

The late Sir Surendra Nath Banerjea, as Minister in charge of Local Self-Government, published in 1923 a review showing the progress of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act. In doing so he expressed his belief that the Act was helping to build self-government on sure foundations, and he reminded the people of Bengal that the development of representative institutions was one of the subjects to be investigated by the Statutory Commission to be appointed under the Government of India Act, and of the importance which would then be attached to the progress of Union Boards.

In the district of Nadia, after going slow at the beginning, you have made good progress. I think that you have had some great advantages. Sir Surendra Nath emphasized the effect on Union Boards of the attitude of the District Board, and from 1920 to 1924 you had the help of the Maharaja Bahadur as Chairman of your District Board, and since then he has been the Member in charge of Local Self-Government. After his departure Rai Biswambhar Rai Bahadur, who has devoted so many years of his life to the service of the District Board, has given you further help as Chairman. Mr. Graham, who has been District Magistrate here for the past two years, has given me an account of your work and by quoting one line of his report I can show you the extent of his enthusiasm. He

writes: "All hope of real political and social progress is centred in the Union Boards." I do not think that this is an exaggeration. The idea of representative institutions is new in this country, and in order that this idea may be widely diffused it is essential that the people should be able to learn by their own experience the fundamental principles which underlie it. This is the foundation of political progress on the lines laid down by the Government of India Act, 1919. As regards social progress, under which I include all the aspects of rural improvement, I will quote again from Sir Surendra Nath's review: "The Village Self-Government Act involves a definite recognition by the Government and by the Legislature of the failure of the attempt to meet the needs of Bengal villages by the agency of centralized institutions administering large areas and of the fact that the only hope of meeting these needs lies in trusting the residents of villages to determine for themselves what they require and in giving them the opportunities to provide what they require in their own manner and for themselves."

These are the tasks on which you are engaged and every member of the 266 Union Boards in this district and every elector has an opportunity and a corresponding responsibility for advancing the cause of self-government in India.

I think that it would be a matter of surprise to a stranger to this country to hear that, when a Bengal Village Self-Government Act had been passed in 1919 with the object of creating Union Boards in each one of about 6,700 unions, in 1926 only 2,159 Union Boards had been constituted.

I have been reading an account of the introduction of the Local Government Act in Ireland in 1898, a measure which was in many respects similar to our Act of 1919. The Act came into operation on the 1st April 1899 and preparations had to be made for the election of the new authorities before that date. Six hundred new authorities had to be created and the preparations were made and elections completed for all these bodies in 1899. I do not assert that such rapid extension as this was practicable in Bengal because there was essential preparatory work to be done and the population of Bengal is about ten times as big as that of Ireland and the number of local authorities about ten times as great.

In Bengal we have held that preparatory work is necessary and that circle officers are necessary for carrying out that work. Owing to financial stringency after the war there was delay in completing recruitment of circle officers and the present position is that, when the recruitment in the current year has been finished, we shall have 242 of the 272 officers required, though many of these are still under training.

The preparatory work in Chaukidari Unions which is necessary consists of making the assessments fair, persuading the best men available to be members of the pauchayat, readjusting union boundaries and preparing voters' lists. After making every allowance for the shortage of officers and for other difficulties which have occurred, I feel that the progress which has been made is somewhat disappointing and that there is much leeway to be made up in the next few years.

Apart from the actual work which has been done by the Boards, Nadia district is to be congratulated on the fact that the Act has been extended to the whole of the district. This is a distinction which Nadia shares with Howrah, Hooghly, Birbhum and Tippiëra, while in Burdwan and Chittagong it has been extended to the whole district with the exception of the Asansol and Cox's Bazar subdivisions. The advantage of extension to the whole of districts or subdivisions is great because this admits of uniform treatment in the matter of grants from Government and the District Board, and I understand from Mr. Graham that you have greatly benefited in this respect by the distribution of grants for water-supply.

There are many disadvantages in partial extension. There is a risk of the District Board being led to encourage the Union Boards, where there are very few of them, by making grants of amounts which it cannot afford to make to Union Boards over the whole district. This involves disappointment, when the Act is further extended and grants have to be reduced, or a disinclination to extend the Act because of the large expenditure contemplated. I understand that when you had a few Union Committees in this district they were receiving grants of 50 times the amount which the District Board could have afforded to pay if similar bodies had extended throughout the district, and such a state of affairs is an effective bar to advance. Partial extension also causes the administrative inconvenience of having work done by the Local Board in one village and by the Union Board in the next, a system which causes much waste in establishment charges.

Now that the Act has been extended to the whole district, you can concentrate your efforts on getting the utmost benefit out of it. The full development of the system of village self-government contemplated by the Act includes the establishment of Union Benches and Courts for the settlement of petty disputes; this is a very real power and it appears to me to be one of the most valuable features of the Act. Not only does it enable the villagers to settle their disputes at a minimum of cost and trouble and prevent the bitterness which a decision in a law court is likely to engender, but it helps to make the village self-sufficing in every respect and thus strengthens the influence and respect in which the Union Boards are and ought to be held. The Civil Justice Committee has, indeed, recognized the value of such village courts and recommended the grant of exclusive jurisdiction to them, and we hope to make the necessary provision for this in the Act when it is next amended. I am, therefore, very glad to see that due importance is being attached here to this aspect of the question, and that it is proposed to push on with the establishment of more and more Union Benches and Courts.

I can also congratulate you on the generous treatment which you have received from the District Board both in grants and in the assistance of the District Board staff in technical questions. It is largely due to the extension of the Act throughout the district that the Board has been enabled to give this treatment. I am glad to observe that the District Board has been mindful of the advice contained in Sir Surendra Nath's

review that "the proper test to apply to the policy of District Boards is the question whether it has the effect of encouraging the efforts of Union Boards to do work for themselves."

There has been a progressive increase in taxation in this district for purposes of rural improvement. Government have repeatedly declared that the decision to impose this taxation rests solely with the Union Boards, and is confident that under this system it will be imposed for purposes for the fulfilment of which there is a genuine public demand.

You have had opposition which you have overcome, but such opposition is retarding the extension of the Act in other districts, and I have something to say about it. It would appear that the provisions of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act provide just the machinery that is required for the "village reconstruction," of which we hear so much on political platforms but of which up to now we have seen such small results. Why then has there been opposition in the past and why is this opposition still found? It has always been one of my greatest difficulties to discover what are the grounds for opposition to the Act. I am not convinced by being told that the people of a district do not want it, and I am not prepared to accept that as the last word, and for the very good reason that I find that in the districts where they have it the people like it, as in Nadia. Where any further reason is given it is generally one of three. The first is that the population cannot bear any extra taxation. My reply to this is that the extra taxation is voluntary and, if imposed at all, will be

imposed by a body a majority of which is elected. We desire to give the opportunity for taxation and have no sort of intention to compel extra taxation. The second is that the Act is worth nothing because it does not give the Union Board complete control over dafadars and chaukidars. The Act gives a greater measure of control than the Chaukidari Act which it replaces, and this objection, therefore, amounts to refusal of part if the whole cannot be obtained. But as long as the rural police have functions to perform which extend beyond the Union and which, therefore, relate to an authority other than the Union Board, the difficulty of dual control cannot be avoided. I wish you to understand, however, that it is the definite policy of Government to give the Union Board a greater interest in enforcing the duties of the rural police and, therefore, a closer control over them. I understand very well the desire of the Union Boards to exercise this control. If they did not have that desire they would not be exercising their functions. Government have repeatedly impressed on their officers their wish that the Union Boards should be respected in this matter. I find a passage in Mr. Graham's report on your progress which shows that he respects your feelings on this subject and I have no doubt that his attitude makes itself felt. What matters most is the spirit in which the law and the rules are worked.

The third reason which is given is that the Bengal Village Self-Government Act is a device of the Government for increasing bureaucratic control. It is difficult for one who reads the Act to understand this criticism, but it is largely directed against

the circle officer. In all countries there is and must be a certain amount of central direction and control over local self-governing institutions; it is no more possible for a self-governing unit to go its own way in complete disregard of the rest of the world than it is for an individual to do so. The only difference lies in the methods and means of that control. In England, the controlling powers are very much more stringent and perhaps for that very reason the occasions for their use are comparatively few. In India, in the present state of village self-government, the personal element of guidance is more helpful and valuable than checks and counter-checks by rules and it is the circle officer that supplies this element and acts as a link between the village unit and other authorities. Here again, what matters most is the spirit in which this work is done, and in this district I can rely on the officers acting under Mr. Graham's orders to work in the right spirit, and I have had definite information that they do so. No effort will be relaxed to secure this result.

I find, therefore, that these three reasons which are given do not explain the phenomenon. When I return to the story of Ireland in 1899, I find the following record by one who had long experience of that country:—

“In the south of Ireland opposition to the Irish Government and the executive in and out of Parliament was the first principle of political life, and the determination to obstruct and make the Government troublesome could in a great measure be effected by constant resistance to the Local Government Board.”

There is no other explanation of the opposition of a political party to the extension of the Bengal Village Self-Government Act. This meeting constitutes a proof that it is a beneficent measure, which is enlarging the opportunities for good of those who wish to relieve the want of their countrymen and to improve the conditions of village life in Bengal. The record of your work shows that you are making good use of it. I congratulate you on that record and wish you the success which you deserve.

***His Excellency, Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the opening of the Krish-
nagar-Nabadwip Light Railway, on 30th
June 1926.***

MR. PEARCE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

One of the requests which the District Board made to His Excellency Lord Lytton during his visit here in 1923 was for the extension of the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway to Nabadwip.

Lord Lytton was unable to give a very reassuring reply on this point as he understood that such a line was not likely to be remunerative and he could not, therefore, press very strongly for the construction of the line.

It is all the more gratifying, therefore, to find that to meet the expressed wishes of the people of this locality the Railway Board agreed to finance this project and that the work has been completed within such a short time by the Eastern Bengal Railway.

I feel sure that this railway will prove to be a very great boon to thousands of pilgrims, who come each year to visit the sacred city of Nabadwip, and they will have good cause to bless the Railway Board for the relief from a weary walk at the end of their journey.

Another benefit, which you anticipated from the construction of this railway, was a lessening of the risk of outbreaks of Cholera in the district owing to the speedier transportation of the pilgrims to and from Nabadwip. I trust that this expectation also will be realized.

May we not also hope that it will serve to knit more closely together those ties, which the passage of time has, perhaps, tended to loosen, between the ancient seat of learning and this city of Krishnagar? It is impossible to exaggerate the value of the mellowing influence, which old traditions of scholarship and piety and the memories kept alive by the associations of hallowed buildings can exercise upon succeeding generations brought up in their midst; and I am confident that both Nabadwip and Krishnagar will benefit by the narrowing of the interval which has hitherto separated them.

The Agent has explained that it has been possible to make only a modest beginning; but the provision of such amenities, as he has mentioned, rests in your own hands; for they depend upon the earnings and the earnings depend upon the extent to which you patronize the line. At any rate, you now have that for which you asked and I am sure you would wish me to thank the Agent in your name for the expeditious way in which he has responded to your wishes. I look forward with interest to the journey which I am to perform along this historic pilgrim's way, which has now been adapted to modern conditions, but which, thanks to the consideration of the railway authorities, has not been shorn of that fine avenue of trees which has given grateful shade and beauty to countless pilgrims.

I have now much pleasure in declaring the Navadwip Light Railway open.

[Revised.]

Address presented by the Commissioners of the Nabadwip Municipality, on 30th June 1926.

1. We, the Commissioners of the Nabadwip Municipality, beg on behalf of ourselves and the citizens of the place, to offer Your Excellency our most sincere, loyal and respectful welcome on this occasion of Your Excellency's gracious visit to this small but historic town.

2. Once the centre of Sanskrit learning in Bengal, the place where Lord Gouranga was born and preached his doctrine of Love, the soil whence sprang innumerable Pandits of worldwide fame, and, lastly the capital of a mighty line of Hindu kings, Nabadwip has ever been a place of eminence in Bengal, if not in India. But now, to our great sorrow, it has been shorn of all its former glory, having only the traditions of its scholarship living in the memory like the vibration of some sweet music when its soft and feeling tunes have died.

3. The august visit of Your Excellency to this town, preceded by those of your illustrious predecessors in office, inspires us with the hope that this town may some day again be restored to its pristine glory.

4. We beg, with Your Excellency's permission, to set forth below some of our needs and requirements:—

- (1) As the birth place of Sree Chaitanya, Nabadwip has always drawn a large

concourse of pilgrims year after year, and with better facilities in communication all over the country, the pilgrim traffic is daily growing in volume. We have to meet the sanitary, conservancy and other needs of this growing influx of pilgrim traffic. With our limited finance it is much beyond our resources, and we now take this opportunity to approach Your Excellency with our prayer that the Nabadwip ferry, the proceeds of which are mainly drawn from this traffic, may be made over to the Municipality, which has to look after the health and sanitation of the pilgrims.

(2) With the influx of people drawn from distant corners of this vast country, it is not possible to meet the needs of a growing town within the limited means at our disposal. The Commissioners of this Municipality have recently proposed to impose a pilgrim or terminal tax, and we hope Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to accord your sanction to the proposal of this Municipality.

(3) The Commissioners of this Municipality take this opportunity to draw Your Excellency's attention to the absence of a down platform, an overbridge and a feeder road at the Nabadwip Railway Station which is visited by nearly 150,000 passengers every year. Now

as this railway has become a Government property, we pray that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to pass such orders that these defects are immediately rectified to avoid accidents, which are not rare, in the future.

- (4) His Excellency Lord Carmichael was pleased to lend a gracious ear to the proposal of setting up a common Sanskrit tól somewhat on the line of a Residential University. A grant of Rs. 25,000 was promised by the Government towards the building funds. As the citizens of this town are extremely anxious to raise the status of the Nabadwip Hindu School to a second-grade college, with a Tól Department on the lines of the Government Sanskrit College in Calcutta, we pray that Your Excellency's Government will be pleased to extend to us a helping hand once more in our efforts that with the growing needs of the present we can keep up the traditions of the ancient city which we have the honour to represent.

5. We beg, in fine, to thank Your Excellency that even amidst the multifarious responsibilities of your exalted office, Your Excellency has found time to grace Nabadwip with a visit.

6. Once again, we welcome Your Excellency with our most respectful and loyal greetings and pray to the Almighty for Your Excellency's long, happy and prosperous career.

*Address presented by the Pandits of Nabadwip, on
30th June 1926.*

1. That Your Excellency, as a great patron of learning, has shown your peculiar interest for Sanskrit education and, as a proof whereof, has adorned this old seat of Sanskrit learning (Nabadwip) by your most auspicious visit at immense personal troubles, brings great delight to our hearts, the Brahmin Pandits of Nabadwip, who are assembled here to-day to accord to Your Excellency of infinite virtues a most cordial welcome.

2. Even though the attainment of all earthly bliss that chance can bestow is complete in your case leaving nothing more to be desired, still we wish it be so.

Oh, you whose soul is washed clean by the element of learning! those virtues that have attained for you this august and exalted position and have secured for you love and fame far and wide, may those virtues of thine, objects of realization of all good men, increase manifold and glow with additional lustre.

Also—

May the full moon of your white fame shed its cool and soothing rays, all around through all directions of the earth and the ever victorious and blessed Fortune of Royalty attend your steps.

May your superior prowess tear up your foes even as the Sun dispels darkness and may you enjoy a long and happy life uninterrupted by separation from near and dear ones.

Also—

As you are well-versed in the rules of administration and command the highest honours from all quarters, we beg to present you the title “Nitiratnakar” (Ocean or store-house of Arts of administration).

3. Our prayer to Your Excellency—

(1) This Nabadwip has been famous from very ancient times for the culture of Sanskrit *sastras*, and as it has always commanded the reputation of being a seat of Sanskrit learning in India, the noble Government have established three stipendiary posts for *Nyaya* and *Smriti* with a view to maintaining the chain of its reputation unbroken. But there is no Government institution here for Sanskrit education, although we have made many a prayer for the establishment of such an institution. We have heard it often that the Mahārajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, some time an Education Member of Government, during his visit to this town on a former occasion, in response to a prayer made by us, made a provision of Rs. 25,000 for the purpose of such an institution. But the matter has not attained its fruition up to now. A great patron of learning as you are, our sincere prayer to Your Excellency is that Your Excellency may be graciously pleased to dispense matters so that the proposed scheme of a *chatuspathi* (161) for Sanskrit education may attain early realization.

(2) The Nabadwip “College of Pandits,” just like the “Swaraswat Samaj” of Dacca, has a brilliant record of work in the cause of Sanskrit education. The Sanskrit First, Second and Title examinations in almost all the important subjects of Sanskrit

learning are held under the auspices of this *Sava* or Association. The first two examinations, *viz.* the first and second examinations, are guided by Government supervision and rules, while the last, *viz.* the title examination, is managed by the rules of this *Sava*. The expenses of the *Sava* has so far been met by a few charitably-disposed gentlemen, most of whom are now dead, and their help discontinued in consequence. Our respectful prayer to Your Excellency, therefore, is, that you may be graciously pleased to make a grant to this important institution, so that it may rise above its present financial crisis and make a happy progress in its race for the great future it has in view. •

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
reply to the Addresses presented at
Nabadwip, on 30th June 1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am very grateful for the cordial welcome which has been extended to me by the Municipal Commissioners and the Pandits of Nabadwip. I could not, of course, have spent 30 years in this Presidency without being aware of the place which Nabadwip occupies in the literature, religion and history of Bengal, but this is the first opportunity I have had of visiting it and realizing for myself its spirit of scholarship and reverence.

You say that this historic town has been shorn of the glory, which it enjoyed as the centre of Sanskrit learning in the past, but the presence of the Pandits here to-day reminds us that the traditions of its scholarship do not live in the memory alone, but have been handed down as a valued legacy from generation to generation and that each generation strives to keep the torch of learning undimmed.

The trustees of that ancient learning and of all that for which Nabadwip stands are here side by side with those into whose keeping the administration of the town and its civic interests have been entrusted. Indeed, Nabadwip's fame as the birth-place of the Lord Gouranga and as the centre of learning conditions many of the problems with which the City Fathers are confronted, while the

doctrine of love and its traditions of devoted service may point the way to some of the solutions. The association of the heritors of the past and the trustees of the present is symbolic in its presentation of the problem of reconciling all that is best in the traditional indigenous life of India with the demands imposed by the development of a more complex civilization.

The glory has not passed, it is still there for those who pride themselves on the history and literature of their race, and it is for the Municipal Commissioners with that tradition to inspire them to establish and maintain the conditions most favourable to its growth.

And it is about some of these material conditions that you have approached me this afternoon.

In the first place, you have asked for the establishment of a second-grade college with a *tól* department, and it is suggested that this might be effected by raising the Hindu school to the status of a second-grade college. I am advised that, although Krishnagar College is so near at hand, Nabadwip could still support a college of her own, but by reason of this very contiguity the need can hardly be regarded as an urgent one. As regards the actual proposal, the site of the school is small and the buildings somewhat cramped, and it is, therefore, out of the question to add intermediate classes to the school without improving the buildings and expanding the site to provide for the accommodation of about 100 students. This will cost money. Are the local people ready to contribute the major portion of the expenditure, recurring and

non-curring For this is a condition on which we insist before we can come forward with financial help. 'I am afraid that the experience of the last few years is not reassuring: you will remember that your efforts in connection with the acquisition of land for a play ground and with the construction of a hostel produced very little effect. We are only too glad to help local needs, but we can do so only if the local people give us a practical indication of the sincerity of their demands, by themselves making substantial contributions and sacrifices: to relax such a rule in your case would be unfair to other localities. Unless, therefore, you can put up a considerable sum by way of local contribution, I see little chance of this ambition of yours being realized.

Nor, I am afraid, can I see that there is justification for the establishment of a *tol* at Government cost, as we have already provided facilities for Sanskrit education here.

With regard to the Pandit's request for a grant to their college, I can only say that the Education Department will be prepared to consider any application for a grant-in-aid under the existing rules.

The Municipality points out that the large concourse of pilgrims attracted to Nabadwip places upon them a heavy financial burden out of all proportion to their income and they suggest that, to meet the additional expenditure, which the sanitary and other arrangements in connection with this influx involve, they should be given the proceeds of the ferry dues and should also be allowed to impose a pilgrim or terminal tax on all visitors arriving in

the town. With regard to the ferry dues, I may tell you, as I explained at Krishnagar two days ago, that in response to the insistent demands, which have been made by District Boards and Municipalities alike, Government have promised to examine the question afresh and to consider whether it will be possible for us to forego this source of income; but no decision has yet been reached and even if it were decided to sacrifice this source as a provincial asset, the principle of its distribution would still have to be settled. With regard to the terminal tax, provision for some such imposition has been made in the Bengal Fairs Bill, which has been circulated for opinion. The bill, therefore, is still in a very early stage, but, if it should become law, you should have the means of levying charges in the way you suggest and of meeting the cost of the sanitary and other measures necessary to cope with the influx of pilgrims.

I sympathize to the full with your desire to provide for the material well-being of the pilgrims who come to you for spiritual uplift. But are you satisfied that you have left no stone unturned to do this even under your present circumstances? I am informed that your present taxes are not collected. If that is so, are you not betraying both those ideals of disinterested service which contributed so largely to the glory, the passing of which you deplore, and also the interests of those who have elected you as their trustees? They will judge you by the improvements you have effected and by the financial condition in which you leave the Municipality, and how can you face them if by your action in allowing some of the rate-payers to escape

their just payments you inflict a lasting loss on all? In this connection, I should like to refer to your attitude towards the appointment of a Health Officer: other Municipalities have derived great benefit from the services of such an officer and one is obviously needed here. Government have offered to co-operate, on terms which seem to me most favourable to the Municipality, in supplying a qualified medical officer, and yet the Municipality have refused to accept this proposal. It is very difficult for me to reconcile this attitude with that single-minded devotion to the best interests of the town which surely should animate those who are the modern custodians of its traditions, or with your obligations to the pilgrims, from whom the livelihood of so many in this town must be derived.

You also ask for certain improvements to your railway station: I am glad to be able to inform you that the necessity for a second raised platform and an overbridge has already been recognized and the work will be taken in hand as soon as the provision of similar facilities at other stations, which are already in progress, is completed.

Pandits, you have been good enough to refer to me in very flattering terms and to confer on me a title, which I am proud to possess. I thank you for the honour you have done me and shall count it a privilege that I have received this mark of distinction at your hands. I only hope that I shall be able to use the arts of administration, with which you are good enough to credit me, to the advantage of Bengal during the few months longer that I have to spend here.

In conclusion, gentlemen, let me ask you not to dwell too much on your past glory as a thing of the past—regretfully sighing for its return. Let the tradition and glory of the past spur you on to make this town and its administration worthy of that tradition and of the memories it enshrines.

I thank you once again for the honour you have done me and the welcome which you have accorded to me.

***Mrs Excellency, Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Police Parade at Lall
Bazar, on 3rd July 1926.***

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE CALCUTTA POLICE,

I am delighted that this Annual Police Parade gives me an opportunity of meeting you, as I desire to thank you for the loyal and devoted service which you have done during the stress of the last three months. I know what a strain the riots placed upon you and how cheerfully you undertook your duties, frequently without rest for days. It was on you that both the Government and the public relied during those troublous times and, as is the way of the world, you have been subjected to a torrent of fierce criticisms. I have always maintained that one black sheep among the police does more harm to Government than is undone by the good work of ten loyal officers, and no Government can afford to do anything but sternly punish any established failure to carry out the duties of the force in the protection of the public. But if you have great responsibilities you have also rights, and you can claim from Government to be supported in the execution of your duty and to be protected from baseless and not infrequently purely malicious charges. I know myself to what extent the bitter communal feeling that prevailed distorted the judgment and even the perceptions of both sides; nevertheless every charge that could be tested and that seemed to have some one responsible to vouch for it has been enquired into; in the few cases where there are grounds for proceeding further, there will be no desire to shield anyone

who is found guilty. But this examination of the charges levelled against you either as individuals or as a force, has, in the opinion of Government, completely vindicated the Calcutta Police. You have been tried highly and have come through the ordeal with flying colours. I take this opportunity of saying that your restraint, your courage and your sense of discipline were worthy of all commendation and your conduct during the riots reflects great credit on the morale of the Calcutta Police of all ranks. Your record is one of which any police force might be justly proud. I could single out the individual feats done by various members of the force, but where all did so well this would be invidious. I should, however, like to express the gratitude of the citizens of Calcutta to Captain Westbrook and the members of the Fire Brigade for the magnificent work which they did in coping with the numerous outbreaks of fire which occurred. Their splendid efforts saved incalculable losses in life and property and speak eloquently of the discipline, organization and efficiency of the Brigade. I have already referred to the manner in which the Commissioner handled the situation, and I think a special word of thanks is due to Mr. Bartley, whose knowledge of the city and its police work, whose courage and coolness and whose influence with the police generally were invaluable to Mr. Armstrong and Government. To one and all of you, officers and men, I desire to express the thanks of Government and I think I may add of all the citizens of Calcutta.

My connection with the Calcutta Police dates back for many years and they have been years

of progress often under great difficulties. I congratulate you on at last being on the way to obtain suitable buildings worthy of the force and of the city. I know, as well as you do, the struggle to maintain health, discipline and self-respect in some of the buildings in which it has been your lot to dwell; but I trust that will soon be a thing of the past and that the second city of the Empire will be able in all respects to take pride in the force to which the great responsibility of her protection is entrusted.

I cannot let this occasion pass, without referring to the irreparable loss sustained by the death of Rai Bhupendra Nath Chatarji Bahadur. Although he belonged to the Bengal Police, he was so intimately associated with Calcutta that you must mourn his loss as deeply as they do. It is impossible to speak too highly of his courage, loyalty and devotion to duty, and it was these very qualities that led to his death. In him Government have lost a most gallant and invaluable officer and Bengal a true patriot who worked with kindly sympathy and understanding to turn his youthful fellow-countrymen from paths of which he clearly saw both the futility and the danger. He realized that his life was threatened and that he was in daily danger, and yet he swerved not one inch from what he held to be his duty. He devoted himself to Government and the best interests of his country and Government will ever be grateful to his memory. That he should have been singled out for this dastardly crime is itself a testimony to the value of his work. I share with you, who mourn the loss of a gallant comrade, the grief for a devoted servant of the Crown.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Address to the Recipients of the King's
Police Medal at the Police Parade at
Lall Bazar, on 3rd July 1926.***

MR. ARMSTRONG,

During your twenty-nine years' service in the Indian Police you have held various important appointments in all of which you have proved yourself an exceptionally able, hard working and conscientious officer. Your knowledge of the work of the Criminal Investigation Department of which you were in charge for so many years, has been of the greatest value to Government, and your tact, patience and ability were shown particularly in your dealings with the revolutionary activities. I congratulate you most heartily on the King's Police Medal which has been awarded to you and which you most richly earned.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without thanking you, on behalf of Government, for the admirable manner in which you handled the recent regrettable riots in Calcutta. It was, indeed, unfortunate for you that you should have been confronted with so difficult a situation so soon after you had taken over charge as Commissioner of Police and before you had really had sufficient time to acquaint yourself with the danger zones in the city, the disposition of your forces, and the other details so necessary for the efficient administration of a large city. Yet in spite of this handicap you handled the situation with the utmost tact and skill, and

it is largely due to your patience and self-restraint that order was restored without greater loss of life and property and that order has been since maintained. I can assure you that you have amply justified the confidence which Government placed in you.

CONSTABLE SEW SARAN SINGH,

In June 1924, Calcutta was filled with rumours of kidnapping of young children by Sikhs in connection with alleged sacrifices at the King George's Dock, Kidderpore. These rumours led to instances of assault on members of the Sikh community in Calcutta, several of which ended fatally. On the 10th June a Sikh was waylaid by a mixed gang of local Muhammadans and Hindus. A constable on patrol heard of this and went to the place, but finding the crowd too large for him ran to a distance and blew his whistle. Hearing the whistle you ran up and two of you proceeded to take off your belts which you brandished in the face of the crowd and so kept them at bay for some time. Finding the position untenable you pluckily withdrew the Sikh and pushed him inside a roadside culvert and then stood at either end keeping the crowd off him until reinforcements arrived. The great courage and devotion to duty which you showed on this occasion at the risk of your life have fully earned the award of the King's Police Medal.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Special Convocation of
the Calcutta University, on 29th July
1926.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

One of the privileges enjoyed by a University is the power to confer honorary degrees on those who, in the words of the Indian Universities Act, by reason of eminent position and attainments are deemed fit and proper persons to receive such degrees. There can be no doubt about the fitness of Sir William Ewart Greaves. He is our Vice-Chancellor and, therefore, one of us, but this evening he is amongst us as a guest, whom we desire to honour and, by honouring him, to honour ourselves. The University has decided to confer upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Law, and it is the established custom on such occasions to refer to the attainments by reason of which the recipient is admitted to the degree. To such an audience, which has had ample opportunity of estimating his services to the advancement of learning, it would be superfluous for me to dilate at length upon the many qualities that distinguish Sir Ewart, and so I shall content myself with touching very briefly upon what he has done.

He joined the High Court of Calcutta as a Puisne Judge in March 1916 and quickly established a reputation for depth of knowledge, sobriety of judgment and breadth of vision. Not content with carrying out the exacting duties of the Bench, he

devoted a great part of his leisure to social work in Calcutta and on the resignation of the late Mr. Bhupendra Nath Basu from the post of Vice-Chancellor, Sir Ewart Greaves, in response to the Chancellor's invitation, cheerfully shouldered the responsibilities of a post, which is no sinecure but makes the most exacting demands on the time and energies of the holder. It was, therefore, at great sacrifice of personal leisure and convenience that he accepted the Vice-Chancellorship, but having done so he applied himself with characteristic energy and zeal to his new duties, determined to master the details of the complex organization which Calcutta University has become.

•He will have held the Vice-Chancellorship with credit to himself and profit to the University for two years and it is only fitting that we should show our appreciation of his services by conferring upon him a doctorship in the subject, which is pre-eminently his own. To carry out merely the ordinary everyday office and routine duties of a Vice-Chancellor needs no small amount of time and tact, but Sir Ewart Greaves has done far more than this: he has impressed his individuality upon the University and effected or initiated several measures for its lasting benefit. Let me cite three or four instances.

As you know, the finances of the University had for some years been a matter of dispute, and, indeed, of somewhat acrimonious dispute, between the University and the Government of Bengal; it was largely due to Sir Ewart's patience and tact that a settlement was at length reached to the satisfaction of both parties. His personal influence was

also largely responsible for the agreement which was arrived at in connection with the Matriculation Regulations.

His valuable work in the reorganization of Post-Graduate studies and the staff of that department and the special interest which he has taken in the Students' Welfare Committee are typical of his untiring energy and of the sympathy with which he approached the many difficult problems which a Vice-Chancellor is called upon to solve.

Another reform introduced during Sir Ewart's Vice-Chancellorship—a reform which may, perhaps, appear small in itself, but which should prove very beneficial to students, is the earlier publication of examination results. This was the direct result of the Vice-Chancellor's close supervision of the University work and was made easier by the loyal co-operation of the staff. And I imagine that a great deal of the credit for stiffening the standards in this year's examinations may justly be given to him.

Another indication of Sir Ewart's deep far-sighted interest in education is the thought and care which he has given to the revision of the rules for the management of non-Government high schools. The proposed new rules are designed to protect the interests of teachers and to establish something in the nature of permanency of tenure among them, and this should result eventually in a marked improvement in the quality of the teaching, and so react to the lasting benefit of education in general.

I am aware that this is but an inadequate estimate of the services of Sir Ewart Greaves, but it

will serve to indicate the directions in which his energies and influence have been exerted; his aims have not been spectacular, but in all his efforts he has had the true interest of education at heart and has made a valuable contribution to the cause of learning.

It will, I think, be a source of gratification to him to know that within a few days of his relinquishing the Vice-Chancellorship the Government of Bengal will ask the Legislative Council for money to complete the third storey of the Asutosh Building, which Sir John Kerr formally opened 13 months ago. I think we may regard this also as a tangible result of his Vice-Chancellorship and of the better understanding which he created between Government and the University.

In conclusion, let me thank Sir Ewart, on behalf of the University, for his services and let us hope that he will carry away with him pleasant recollections of comradeship and achievement.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Dacca Durbar, on 2nd
August 1926.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I feel that it would not be right for me to miss this opportunity, when prominent citizens of all parts of the province, especially Eastern Bengal, are gathered together in Durbar, of referring briefly to the present disastrous outbreak of communal feeling in the Presidency and of appealing to all of you to do your utmost to rescue Bengal from the dangers that confront her.

I do not desire even to touch upon the ultimate causes that have brought about the present state of tension, still less to take upon myself to apportion blame in this regard. I wish only to examine the existing conditions to see what factors are keeping the tension alive and how these can be removed. Speaking to you as the Head of the Government, I must naturally first refer to the attitude of Government about which there has been much misrepresentation. I will not insult you by supposing that any one present believes the fantastic theory that Government are deliberately fomenting the trouble for deep ulterior motives of their own. Higher authorities than myself have already dealt with this in public speeches and I will only say that it is a source of perpetual wonder to me how any intelligent person can credit us with the contradictory attributes of Machiavellian cunning and crass stupidity that would be necessary if the

accusations were true. But Government have been accused, and the accusations are fully believed by many people, of weakness and of partiality. I have been in touch throughout this period with representatives of both communities belonging to all classes; I have been counselled by both sides to take strong action, though the nature of the action is generally undefined; but the strong action advised has invariably resolved itself into strong action against the other community. The accusations of partiality come from both sides and might reasonably be regarded as cancelling each other, but I take this opportunity of declaring unequivocally that to the best of our lights Government have not swerved one inch from the line of strict impartiality between the two communities. We have made no declaration affecting any one's civil rights, we have made no decision affecting any one's religious tenets. In Calcutta we found a position which was likely to make every procession a battle between the rougher elements of both communities and we have defined our police regulations to preserve the peace of the city. Those regulations we have enforced and we shall insist on enforcing without regard to complaints or threats until a change in conditions makes them unnecessary or unsuitable. In the mufassal, though the anxieties have been great and have taxed the energies and abilities of our officers to the utmost and in many districts there have been acts which must have shocked the better minds of both communities, I am thankful to say that there has been serious rioting in only two districts; in both the disorder has been put down and those of both

communities believed to have committed offences are being prosecuted. Government can and will put down all open disorder and use all its powers against those who foment or take part in such disorder.

But Government cannot prevent these outbursts of passion or the suffering and loss they entail, nor can any increase in the police force stop secret cowardly assassinations, as long as they are explicitly or implicitly justified as reprisals by members of each community. These things spring from the bitterness of communal feeling which feeds on tales of grievances, on unfounded rumours and exaggerated reports. There have been many cases, and I am told that Pabna is one of them, where false reports have actually led to their own fulfilment. The calming of these passions is a responsibility that rests on the two communities themselves. We will use the police and the powers vested in us by law impartially to put down disorder and with equal impartiality will listen to and where necessary redress authenticated complaints from members of either community, but it is beyond our power to touch the spirit that animates either community. I should feel happier for the future if I could satisfy myself that all of those who claim in different degrees to be leaders of the two communities or of sections of them were wholeheartedly working for peace or even were not actively opposed to the return of peace. To my mind salvation rests with those of commonsense and humanity who form the majority of both communities and who are not swayed on the one side by politics nor on the other by the baser

passions of intolerance and revenge that bulk so largely in mob psychology. I am convinced that they are tired of this useless savagery with its suffering in the present and its misery in the future, its waste of the energies and resources both of the State and the individual. Let them come forward, not necessarily on platforms or in pulpits, but let them make themselves felt and insist on a return to the old neighbourly relations between those who are and must always be component parts of one whole.

Speaking here in Dacca I must acknowledge with gratitude that leading men in both communities in this city have set an admirable example and on more than one occasion by prompt and determined action and by mutual co-operation have prevented what might have been serious outbreaks. Is it too much to ask that the rest of Bengal will follow the lead, which they and others like them in different districts have thus given ?

I make this appeal to all of you who are present to-day and through you to those of whom you are representative. Discourage recriminations, let each community set its own attitude right and it will then have a claim on the other community. Do not harp on grievances real or imaginary; inflaming passions is not the best way to set these right. Do not let your judgment be warped by communal feeling; examine critically every rumour and report even when it has attained the dignity of print, and, unless you are satisfied that it is true, do all you can to discourage its circulation, and even if you believe it to be true, reflect that its circulation may do more harm than good. You

have centuries of good feeling to place against a few months of hatred and even during these few months the mass of the inhabitants of Bengal have had no desire to harm their neighbours, if only they were left to themselves.

His Excellency the Viceroy has appealed to all in both communities who have influence in any sphere to use that influence in fighting for toleration. I can add nothing to the weight of his words. Let Bengal take the lead in answering wholeheartedly that appeal in the name of religion and her national life.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Addresses to Recipients of Sanads at
Dacca Durbar, on 2nd August 1926.***

KHWAJA NAZIMUDDIN,

A member of the Dacca Nawab family, you have cheerfully shouldered the responsibilities which you evidently regard—and rightly so—as attaching to such membership. For since your return to Dacca four years ago you have applied yourself to public service, and have taken a prominent part in public affairs.

As a member of the Bengal Legislative Council since the beginning of 1924, you have taken your duties seriously and conscientiously and you have always had the courage of your convictions and have not shrunk from expressing or following them.

You have shown the same spirit and independence in municipal matters. Your tenure of the Chairmanship of the Municipality has seen the inauguration of free primary education in this city and the initiation of sanitary and other necessary improvements: and in all your measures you have shown a single-minded disinterested desire to improve the administration of the city and the condition of the people.

You early recognized the need for a reassessment of the municipal rates in the interests of the city, and having done so, you undertook and completed this necessary but unpopular reform in the face of vigorous and sometimes violent opposition.

I congratulate you on your fine example of public spirit.

In the name of the King-Emperor of India and by His Majesty's command I invest you with the Honourable Insignia of the Order of the Indian Empire, of which Most Eminent Order His Imperial Majesty has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be a Companion.

RAI REBATI MÔHAN DAS BAHADUR,

Your philanthropic disposition and your generous sympathy with the poor and distressed are well known in Dacca. You made munificent contributions to various funds during the war, you gave liberally towards the relief of sufferers from the cyclone of 1919, and, with your nephew, you were responsible for the establishment of the East Bengal Institution. The sympathy and zeal, with which you have espoused the cause of the orphans, are further proof of your humanity. I congratulate you on your public spirit and its recognition.

RAI MOHIM CHANDRA CHAUDHURI BAHADUR,

For 19 years you have rendered invaluable service to Government and you have never spared yourself in the discharge of your duties. Your knowledge of forestry, your activity and zeal have been of immense value and, while safeguarding and promoting the interests of Government, you have always considered the convenience and claims of the public. Your ability has marked you out for selection to responsible and difficult charges and your activity and keenness have remained unimpaired by any handicaps or obstacles.

I congratulate you on the honour which you have received.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI ABDUR RAHMAN KHAN,

You have proved your capacity as a Member of the Bengal Educational Service and your work in connection with the training of teachers has been particularly meritorious. I congratulate you on your well-earned title.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI SAIYID AHMAD BAKHT,

Not only have you done excellent work as Muhammadan Marriage Registrar, but you have also used the influence, which you enjoy as the member of an old and aristocratic family of Dacca, for the benefit of Government and your fellows. Owing to your position and reputation you were given the unique privilege of blessing His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, when he visited Calcutta in 1921. I congratulate you on the further distinction, which this title gives you.

RAI SAHIB DINA NATH CHAKRABATTI,

For some years President of the Dacca Mukhtears' Bar, you have consistently supported law and order and have used your influence on its behalf. During the war you greatly helped in recruitment and took a leading part in measures for the relief of the sufferers from the cyclone of 1919. I am glad to have the privilege of presenting you with the *sanad* of your title.

RAI SAHIB DEBENDRA NATH MITRA,

As District Agricultural Officer you have done much to popularise and promote the spread of agricultural improvements in Faridpur; but you have

not confined yourself to your own professional subject, but have taken an active interest in all matters of local importance. Your organization of relief centres after the cyclone of 1919 and of the Faridpur Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition of 1920 earned the highest commendation and your work throughout your service has been marked by ability, zeal and tact. I thank you for the services which you have rendered to the people of Faridpur and to Government.

RAI SAHIB NRIPATI RANJAN RAY,

As President of the Subhadya Union Board and Court in this district you have done excellent work for many years in the cause of village self-government and village improvement. You worked hard to combat the evils of non-co-operation; you established primary schools in your Union and are managing them with conspicuous success; and you have completed many other works of public utility. I congratulate you on the energy and discrimination with which you have used the opportunities afforded to you by the Village Self-Government Act.

RAI SAHIB SURENDRA NARAYAN RAY,

The excellence of your record marked you out for selection as Executive Engineer in charge of the construction of the Dacca Municipal Sewerage System and you have amply justified the confidence placed in you. I congratulate you on this recognition of your meritorious service.

RAI SAHIB AKSHAY KUMAR SEN,

In 1922-23 you did remarkably good work as Secretary of the Faridpur Recruiting Committee for

the Indian Territorial Force and secured 150 recruits. out of a total of 738 in the whole of Bengal and in subsequent years you have not relaxed your efforts in that capacity. In other directions also you have shown your public spirit and sound judgment, and I am glad to be able to give you the *sanad* of your title in recognition of your services.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI KABIRUDDIN AHMAD,

The work which you have done for 21 years in the Education Department has been most creditable, and in the discharge of your duties as Inspector of Schools in recent years you have displayed common-sense, culture and soundness of judgment to an unusual degree. Government is proud to recognize such an officer.

KHAN SAHIB MAULVI AMINUDDIN AHMAD,

As President of the Azimnagar Union Board since its inception, you have administered its affairs with conspicuous success. Your sense of justice and fairness and your impartial administration of the Union Bench and Court have won for you the respect and esteem of all communities, and your influence with your own community in particular has been of great value to Government. You have set an admirable example and Government has reason to be grateful for it.

RAI SAHIB UMESH CHANDRA CHANDA,

You entered the Bengal Police in 1894 as a Sub-Inspector and have worked your way up to your present position by work of a high order. You were awarded the King's Police Medal in 1922 for

the tact and courage with which you carried out your duties, and your loyalty and devotion to duty and your thorough reliability have earned this further mark of Government's gratitude and admiration.

RAI SAHIB SATISH CHANDRA GHOSH,

Your initiative was very largely responsible for the foundation of the Deaf and Dumb School and the Dacca Orphanage, and their successful maintenance and expansion are in great measure due to your untiring energy and zeal. I congratulate you on your public spirit and on your practical sympathy with the afflicted.

RAI SAHIB BASANTA KUMAR MUKHARJI,

Entering the Bengal Police in 1907 you were promoted to the rank of Inspector in 1918. Throughout your service you have shown great capacity for work and you have always carried out your difficult duties with courage and determination. You were awarded the King's Police Medal in 1919, and this present distinction is a further tribute to the excellence of your work.

RAI SAHIB MADHU SUDAN BASU,

You have done valuable work in furtherance of village self-government and have met with conspicuous success as President of the Chandahar Union Board in Dacca district: you have always shown yourself loyal and helpful and you are widely respected for your independence of character, strong sense of duty and impartiality. I congratulate you on the honour which has been conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB UMESH CHANDRA DHAR,

You, too, have proved yourself an energetic and progressive President and thanks to your energy and practical ability the Kaliganj Union Board is a model of what a Board should be. You have the courage of your convictions and this quality proved of immense value to Government during the non-co-operation movement, while your Union has greatly benefited by the important works of public utility which you have been able to complete.

RAI SAHIB GIRINDRA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI,

As a nominated Commissioner of the Madaripur Municipality you have done excellent work in connection with primary education, as a public-spirited citizen you have consistently exerted your influence on the side of law and order, and during the late war you took an active part in the promotion of the War Loan and of recruiting operations. I congratulate you on your many-sided activities and on the recognition you have received.

RAI SAHIB PANZU MAGH MADHAR,

A leader of the Magh colonists in Bakarganj, you have done much to improve their condition and particularly by your good work as Director of the Khepupara Central Bank. Your services to your fellows no less than to Government have earned for you this mark of appreciation.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Police Parade, Dacca, on
3rd August 1926.***

OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE BENGAL POLICE,

I think I can claim that I have as intimate a knowledge of the conditions under which the police work as any one in Bengal, outside the police service itself, and I am glad to have this opportunity of testifying, as head of the province, to the very great respect and admiration which my long experience has taught me to entertain for the general excellence of your work and conduct.

I speak in no partisan spirit; if it has been my lot for some years past in one capacity or another to defend the police against baseless accusations and attacks, which though levelled at the force have in fact been directed against Government, it has equally been my duty to enquire into authenticated charges, and, as far as possible, remove reasonable grounds of complaint on the part of the public, and in holding the balance I have been in a position to judge what the true facts are. In normal times the policeman is judged, I think, by a higher standard than is applied to men of the same position in other walks of life; and a failure of individuals to keep that standard brings discredit on the force out of all proportion to that brought by the black sheep in other professions. And I would not have it otherwise: but it is a corollary that the special responsibilities of the police force should be recognized also in the treatment that is meted out to them and in the amenities of life that are afforded to them.

But the recognition of the value of the force comes in an emergency; if people are faced with the possibility of the loss of the protection of the police; either by the abolition of a thana or by a widespread outbreak of lawlessness that taxes the resources of the police to the utmost and prevents them giving the individual protection that the people have come to expect, I have always found proof of the essential reliance that the law-abiding citizen, however much he may grumble, in fact places on the police. And never more so than at the present time when the unfortunate and to my mind entirely unnecessary communal tension has put a tremendous strain on the police in all parts of the province. You have risen to the occasion in a way that my previous experience of the force had taught me to expect. On such occasions both Government and the police force itself look to the Frontier Rifles as their line of reserve, and I want to convey to them my admiration for their discipline and efficiency; as a mobile force they are invaluable, and on the occasions they have been used, they have done their work cheerily and uncomplainingly in circumstances of the greatest hardship and discomfort. Government and the public have reason to be grateful to them, and I congratulate the men and their officers on their good conduct and the sterling work they have done. I take this opportunity too of tendering the thanks of Government to the police force of all ranks drawn from many districts, which has recently been operating in Pabna. That force had a very hard and trying time; they had to work for long stretches without rest, food or shelter from the sun

or rain; they had to do long marches through mud and water. But I am told that there was not a murmur, not a complaint and not a single member of the force reported sick. Such ungrudging service is worthy of the highest traditions of any police force, and I am confident that when occasion arises I can look for it from the whole of the police force in Bengal.

But at this annual police parade it is customary for the Governor to review the events of the preceding calendar year, and I will, therefore, examine the more routine nature of the police work for the year 1925, and I am glad to see that the record was one of steady progress. The primary duty of a police force in normal times is first the prevention and then the detection of crime, so that to obtain a rough and ready index of the efficiency of the police from year to year one would need to look at the figures for the incidence of crime and the percentage of convictions.

By this criterion the year 1925 was a most satisfactory one: the number of serious cognizable cases reported to the police decreased from 101,865 to 97,283 which is the lowest figure on record. Statistics are apt to be deceptive, but, unless there were numerous cases that were not reported (and I can see no reason for suspecting that more cases than usual were unreported in this year), the figures indicate a considerable decrease in the volume of crime. There may be other contributory causes at work, but the police are entitled to take a considerable part of the credit for this decrease as a proof of their greater efficiency. One of the factors of

greater efficiency is increased confidence and co-operation on the part of the public and this, though largely beyond the control of the force, does to a considerable extent depend on them, and I think there is evidence of a steady improvement in this respect.

The number of complaints brought against the police by members of the public was 416, and, though this is more than in 1924, it is considerably below the figures for any of the six preceding years, while the number of cases in which a conviction was obtained, namely 30, was the lowest on record. These figures suggest not only that the general conduct of the police is improving, but also that the public are showing less inclination to bring frivolous charges against them. On the other side of the picture we have an increase in the number of defence parties, and this suggests that the public are realizing in a greater degree that they have responsibilities in the matter and that if they take the initiative they can give very material assistance in protecting themselves and their villages. There are now 1,450 defence parties in the province and the number of arrests which they effected during 1925 rose to 179 of which 144 were made without the aid of the police. But this figure does not, of course, represent the full amount of the value of their work. It stands to reason that the residents of a locality know more about the bad characters and likely criminals in their area than any one else and the very existence of a defence party must tend to prevent the commission of crime. By keeping watch on doubtful characters and informing the police of suspicious movements and preparations

these defence parties can do much—as indeed they have already shown—to prevent crime and to secure the arrest and conviction of the criminals, if crime has been committed. They also defend their village from violent crime. A gratifying feature of the year is the increase in the number of cases in which resistance was offered to dacoity, from 18 in 1924 to 64 in 1925. The Inspector-General—and I entirely agree with him—attaches great importance to the development of this system of defence parties not merely on account of the actual police work they do, but on account of the promise they offer of a solution of the twin problems of the future satisfactory policing of Bengal and the development of that co-operation between the public and the police which is essential to the welfare of both and without which these defence parties could do no useful work.

Side by side with this very gratifying evidence of public sympathy has been apparent an improvement in the morale and general efficiency of the police; and I am convinced that these two features are not isolated phenomena, but that they react upon each other. The improvement in the morale of the force is shown in the number of punishments and rewards: judicial punishments have decreased from 203 to 195; but of these 127 were for offences under the Police Act, that is offences primarily concerned with the discipline and internal administration of the force, and as I have said only 30 complaints which were actually brought against members of the police by the public ended in conviction. Another gratifying feature is that no one above the rank of constable was convicted of an

offence under the Indian Penal Code. With the decrease in the number of judicial punishments, however, there was an increase in that of departmental punishments, which rose from 12,145 to 12,430, the highest on record; while the number of rewards and good marks also rose from 8,338 to 8,424. I have said that I regard the comparatively high standard required of a policeman as a compliment to the force; and I think these figures for departmental rewards and punishments indicate a determination on the part of the superior officers of the police to meet the expectation of the public as regards the discipline of the force and I think I may say that this has had the result of increasing the confidence of the public.

• So much then for the prevention of crime; let me now consider how far the police have been successful in its detection and for this we must look at the number of convictions obtained. 89·9 per cent. of the police cases which were decided ended in conviction and 76·2 per cent. of the accused sent up were convicted. These figures compare very favourably with those for other provinces, but there is still room for improvement. There are, of course, great difficulties to be contended against—the vast area to be covered, the want of communications, lack of intensive detective training, and so on—but in his annual report the Inspector-General has indicated certain directions in which an improvement can be effected. One of the aspects of police work, to which Mr. Simpson has devoted much of his personal attention, is an improvement in the method of investigation; his instructions to Circle Inspectors have been directed

towards the formation of crime centres and the adoption of special concentrated measures in those areas with the object of disorganizing the gangs and preventing them from rallying or committing further crimes. This policy has already borne fruit and the Inspectors are to be commended on the way in which they have acted on these instructions, the carrying out of which frequently involves great personal inconvenience and hardship to themselves. Another means of detection to which Mr. Simpson has devoted much thought and attention is a system of efficient night patrols; these have met with marked success and have been responsible for no less than 600 arrests of thieves red handed.

The investigating officer has usually a unique knowledge of his jurisdiction and by a judicious application of this knowledge he can judge where crime is likely to break out and thus take steps to prevent it. He further requires to discriminate between cases, where detection can reasonably be expected, and those where further investigation is merely a waste of time. If he applies this discrimination, he will have more time to devote to the investigation of hopeful cases and to the prevention of crime. I trust that the carrying out of these instructions and the re-establishment of the Detective Training School will have a marked effect on the detection of crime.

I hope that one result of the unhappy tension which has prevailed throughout the province will be to convince the public that an efficient and contented police force is essential to the maintenance of the ordinary conditions of life, and I hope

that this conviction will be translated into action. Progress in improving your condition may seem to some of you to be slow, but I have seen more improvement in the last 30 years than any one could have hoped for in the beginning of that period. You may rely on Government steadily to press for the removal of reasonable grievances—in the year which I have reviewed we have provided for the grant of house allowances to those Sub-Inspectors who are not provided with quarters—but impatience that leads to relaxed discipline will not improve your case which rests on your value to the public. This value is being increasingly realized, and I hope the time is not far distant when public opinion will make itself felt and insist on the provision of conditions conducive to the health, efficiency and contentment of the police. It is false economy to refuse them the conditions which will keep them healthy and strong, *viz.*, the provision of satisfactory accommodation and of medical comforts and supplies; these will soon pay for themselves in the increased health and efficiency of the individual members of the police.

My advice to you is to persevere.

I congratulate you, Inspector-General, officers and men, on what has been a very satisfactory year and I think you may be proud of the record. I should like in particular to thank Mr. Simpson for the admirable work he has done in improving the efficiency and morale of the police. He has worked indefatigably and the records show that his labours are producing excellent results. He has concentrated largely on securing the co-operation of the public, on devising measures for the more effective

prevention and detection of crime and on improving the discipline of the force. At the same time he has had the true interests of the police at heart and has been able to secure from Government marked improvements in their conditions of service. I also thank and congratulate those members of the police and public, to whom I am about to present the rewards, which they have earned by meritorious work in the prevention and detection of crime.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Address at the Dacca University
Convocation, on 5th August 1926.***

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I am grateful for the welcome which you, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, have extended to me on behalf of the Dacca University; I feel it a privilege to be associated with this University as its Chancellor, even for so short a time as four months, and I only regret that this period will not be long enough to see the initiation of any measures of permanent benefit to you; you may, however, rest assured that any matters which do come up to me as Chancellor for my approval or advice will receive my most sympathetic consideration.

The Vice-Chancellor has referred to the serious losses which the University has suffered during the past year by resignation or transfer, and I should like to add my word of thanks to the gentlemen he has mentioned for their services. All of them were intimately connected with the University at or very soon after its inception and they are, therefore, responsible in no small measure for the traditions which have been formed and which will mould its future; the thanks of all who have the interests of this University at heart are due to them for the anxious thought and labour which they devoted to Dacca. They may rest assured that their work will not have been in vain and that their names will live in the annals of this University. At the same time I desire as Chancellor to welcome Mr. Langley to the important and responsible post to which he

has been appointed. Having been in Dacca since 1913, he had already won the confidence and respect of educationalists here and I feel sure that, with the co-operation and sympathy of his colleagues, he will do much during his tenure of office to promote the true interests of this University and of education generally, and to advance it along the path which has been mapped out for it. I wish also to welcome and thank Rai Sasanka Coomar Ghosh Bahadur, who, in spite of the heavy calls that his own profession makes upon his time, cheerfully responded to the Chancellor's request to undertake the arduous duties of Honorary Treasurer at great sacrifice of personal leisure and advantage.

The Vice-Chancellor has told us of some of the outstanding features of the year's record and I think we can say that on the whole the record makes satisfactory reading. Some of you may be disappointed that the results and the progress made have not been more startling, but you must remember that the University has only been in existence for five years and they must obviously be years of consolidation; otherwise there is a danger of the infant University outgrowing its strength and becoming constitutionally weak. In the earlier stages, at any rate, it is wiser to concentrate on the consolidation of your resources than to dissipate your energies on premature expansion; having consolidated them successfully you can safely advance and develop in various directions without fear of collapse. When small progress is apparent, it is natural to wonder whether anything is being achieved, but there is no reason to be discouraged; by insisting on thorough, solid work from the

outset we pave the way for developments and expansion of permanent value in the future.

The Vice-Chancellor has expressed the disappointment of the University at the decision of the Government of Bengal regarding what are called the accumulated balances. This decision was reached, however, after a careful and unimpassioned examination of the whole question from every point of view and is an interpretation to the best of our ability of the constitutional position as a result of the changes due to the Reforms: it was not dictated by any desire to save money or to utilize it for other purposes. It represents the application of a general principle which had been accepted for all departments. I sympathize with your disappointment at finding that you have not a fund of your own on which you can draw at your pleasure to meet your capital needs; but it does not mean that Government is any less appreciative of those needs, and though we have to take a wider view of the other needs of the province as a whole than is incumbent on you, you can safely rely on our fullest sympathy with your position and our most careful consideration of your many requirements. You will the more readily appreciate the sincerity of our attitude when you recollect the statutory grant of five and a half lakhs of rupees which we have made and which the Vice-Chancellor has mentioned. I hope that this will give you a sense of stability and security and thus enable you to make your plans ahead without fear of not being able to meet your commitments.

I am glad to hear that the University now proposes to undertake the construction of the

Muslim Hall, plans for which were prepared in 1920, and that a site has finally been selected which will satisfy all the conditions required. The present arrangement cannot be regarded as satisfactory and the possession of their own building will enable the Muhammadans to realize themselves to the full and to develop their own individuality, while tempering it to the needs and ideals of the University as a whole; and I trust that the provision of this hall will have the further result of attracting still more Muhammadan students to the University, the increase in whose number has been the immediate occasion of taking up this work, and so advancing the day when members of the two communities can compete with each other on equal terms.

I was glad to hear that the Executive Council agreed with the objections raised by Government to the establishment of a Department of Tanning and Leather Chemistry at present, and I am impressed by the Vice-Chancellor's arguments showing that there is a greater demand for Botanical and Bacteriological laboratories, which will probably fit in better with the existing opportunities afforded in Dacca and with the natural lines of future development. The proposal is that students who have passed their I. Sc. should be admitted to Dacca University for one year's theoretical training after which they will undergo a two years' practical course at the Farm.

I welcome the Vice-Chancellor's reiteration of the determination of the University to maintain a high standard in its examinations, for this is clearly essential in the real interests of the University and student alike; and, indeed, this is now

generally realized, and it is gratifying to find that the standard of the Calcutta University Matriculation has been considerably stiffened this year and that steps are being taken not only to exact a higher standard but also to ensure that facilities are given to students to qualify themselves for satisfying that standard, as for instance by the inclusion of vocational subjects in the Matriculation Examination and the better teaching of English. I gather, too, that measures for the improvement of schools and colleges in Dacca itself are under contemplation: the Salimullā Intermediate College has recently been opened at Gandaria, but as the buildings there are only lent, I would advise you to press on with the project for erecting permanent buildings on the site which has already been acquired.

I congratulate the University on its efforts to collect Sanskrit and Bengali manuscripts and I would suggest that the work should now be completed by the systematic study of these manuscripts and by the preparation of a catalogue, which will render them of more practical value. As Dacca is one of the more important Vaishnav centres, it is possible that, if special attention is paid to Vaishnav manuscripts, light may be thrown on many points, which are still under controversy regarding the history of Chaitanya and his contemporaries and disciples. Much work also remains to be done in clearing up the history of Mussalman rule in Eastern Bengal, especially for the period between 1300 and 1550 A.D.

The Mussalmans of Bengal have reason to be grateful to the authorities of this University for the ready spirit of co-operation which you showed in

facilitating the deputation of three of your teachers to the staff of the new Islamia College: for the opening of this college represents a true renaissance of Muhammadan learning in Bengal, and the Lytton Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for Muhammadan boys at the Islamia College and the Muslim Hall, Dacca, is another link between these two centres of Islamic culture, which between them open out a new route of progress to the Muhammadan community. The fund, which originated with Nawab Musharruf Hussain's donation two years ago, now amounts to, nearly, half a lakh of rupees. Details regarding the fund's administration are now being worked out.

So much then for some of the features of the year's work. Now let me pass to more general topics. It may, perhaps, be profitable to review the ideals with which the University was established and consider how far you have been able to adhere to them. At the outset I may say that Dacca has had one great advantage in that its inception has not been fortuitous, its University has not grown up by chance. Its establishment and its characteristic features were decided upon after long and careful thought, its ultimate aim and ideals were fixed and its organization and details have been elaborated, in conformity with these ideals. The task of an architect, who has to design a completely new city with unlimited space at his disposal, is easy in comparison with one who has to adapt his conceptions to existing buildings and thoroughfares; the former can give free play to his imagination and lay out the city according to his own genius. And so with Dacca University; unfettered

by traditions, unrestricted by limitations of space or the necessity of adaptation to existing conditions, the architects mapped out the ideal that appealed to them and it is for us to see how far the builders have carried out their design and realized their intentions.

The chief ideal laid down by the Committee which sat in 1912 was that the college, instead of being mechanically joined with other affiliated institutions to a University centre, which is organized without any closer relation to them than this affiliation, is now to be organically bound with other colleges into a higher and more complex unit, the teaching and residential University. The University must be an institution in which a true education can be obtained—the training of the mind, body and character, the result not a book but a man.

The main ideal, therefore, which the creators of this University had in mind was that it should aim at training the character as well as the mind and the body; and they considered that the condition most likely to secure this end, most conducive, to the formation of character, was the provision of a teaching and residential University, as opposed to a mere examining body.

This was not, of course, a new idea. For presumably all Universities would claim to aim at the training of character, although no doubt the advancement of learning would generally be put forward as the primary duty of a University; but the definite principle which this University laid down for itself was, and I hope is, that action and not the acquisition of knowledge is the end of life.

The aim of education is to produce good citizens, to teach men to act for the common good—in other words social service. The development of character and the broadening of outlook, which are essential to this end can best be achieved by a corporate life and this corporate life is at once the immediate aim and the typical feature of the Dacca University. Here you live in your own Halls, self-contained, self-sufficient communities with every opportunity and inducement to develop on your own characteristic lines in conformity with the needs and ideals of the larger body of which the Halls form constituent parts. Hindus and Muhammadans are receiving here side by side the best type of education that the country can offer—an education that gives free play to the student's individuality, while bringing him under the liberalising influence of great ideas. They are being taught by their environment the need for, and value of, friendly co-operation, if the ends, which both communities are at one in seeking, are to be attained.

Here you should sow the seeds of that unity, which we all so much desire to see grow into a strong and vigorous tree, shading beneath its branches all classes, creeds and races,—that unity which will weld all functions and interests into a single solid nation. The conditions under which you all live here side by side in your various hostels must teach you that the University, of which they are constituent parts, is dependent on, and conditioned by, those parts and that its prosperity depends on the extent to which you adapt yourselves to one another's wants, customs and aspirations. So also it is with the nation, of which

the various communities and classes are the constituent parts; each part is essential to the well-being of the whole, and the strength of each part, as well as of the whole, is dependent on, and increased by, the effective co-operation of all the parts. Each part has its own function to fulfil but only as part of the whole.

You will not need to learn this here in Dacca; the truth of it will be forced upon you, so that you will come to regard it as a matter of course, and I trust that in this way that spirit of harmony and sweet reasonableness, which is the basis of all community life, will gradually grow up and permeate the national atmosphere. This University is a state in miniature and by applying the principles which govern the administration and well-being of this University to the affairs of the nation, the future leaders in Bengal can ensure the promotion of a happier feeling among the various peoples. In fact it will not be necessary, as I am afraid it is now, to strive for peace, and the only wonder will be how causes of dissension could ever have arisen in the past.

I have, perhaps, digressed somewhat, but I need not dilate on the wonderful natural advantages which are offered to you here. Everything seems to be in your favour: the corporate life which you lead within your Halls here must imbue you with the spirit of co-operation and of mutual accommodation: the system of tutorial classes again brings student and teacher into more intimate relationship and broadens the outlook for both of them making life more real: the healthy rivalry in athletics and academics further contributes to the promotion of this corporate feeling.

But perhaps equally important for its bearing on the formation of character are what I may call the incidental facilities afforded by college life. I refer to the self-governing institutions, such as the unions, the common-rooms, debating societies, social service leagues, which all teach you independence and yet mutual dependence. Active participation in these activities is not the least valuable part of college life.

How far then have you taken advantage of all these opportunities? How far have you worked towards these ideals? I am not intimate enough with your history to tell, but I hope the students will bear the ideals I have suggested carefully in mind and remember that character is as essential as learning. Learning may enable you to pass examinations and to obtain employment, but character is necessary if you are to make that employment a success and to turn to good account the advantages of learning. I would urge upon students, who are privileged to read here, to take advantage of all the facilities that are offered them; not to concentrate on academic study to the exclusion of all else, but to live to the full the corporate life which is open to them. In this way will they best fit themselves for life and for the service of their country. I hope those who have to-day received their degrees have already profited in this way and will, therefore, be better equipped for the journey on which they are now embarking. To those who are still studying I would say: "Keep your eyes steadfastly on the ideals with which this University was founded. Give to it of your best and you will then be able to take from it all that it has to offer you."

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Address at the East Bengal Saraswat
Samaj Convocation, on 6th August
1926.***

LEARNED PANDITS OF THE EAST BENGAL SARA-
SWAT SAMAJ,

I regard an invitation to preside at this Convocation as itself a great compliment; for it implies that you recognize my interest in the ancient learning and scholarship of India and my sympathy with measures for its promotion and encouragement. And to preside over a body of such learned men is a privilege of which I am deeply sensible. I can assure you that my interest and sympathy are real. The life of a Member of the Indian Civil Service brings him into touch with all conditions and activities of Indian life, and he would, indeed, be unimpressible, who failed to be struck by the sincerity, the deep culture and the beauty of Sanskrit lore, or to realize and appreciate at its true value the important part played by the pandits and the traditions which they represent in the development of Indian history and in the formation of the national character. My experience has taught me the utmost respect and reverence of your culture and all that it represents, and I am glad to have this opportunity towards the end of my career in Bengal of testifying to it.

In 1920, when you asked that Government should recognize the titles conferred by the Samaj, Lord Ronaldshay pointed out that owing to the existence

and constitution of the Calcutta Sanskrit Association this would not be possible. I understand, however, that the matter has again been raised before the Sanskrit College Committee: I would suggest that you should consider the desirability of including in your Council the Principal of the Sanskrit College, who is *ex-officio* Secretary of the Sanskrit Association, and someone, who would no doubt be chosen from the staff of the Sanskrit Department, to be nominated by the Executive Council of the Dacca University. They would be in a position to check the standard of your examination and titles and, if necessary, to suggest steps for raising the standard sufficiently to enable examinations to be recognized by Government. This is only a tentative suggestion, but, perhaps, it would be worth your while to consider it.

I think the time has come when the Samaj should make an effort to work in closer relationship generally with the University. Your interests are similar: for after all the object of the Samaj, as of the Sanskrit Department of the University, is the advancement of Sanskrit learning. A knowledge of the indigenous methods of sanskritic studies is of value to students who pursue these studies according to modern scientific methods, while those who are acquainted with modern methods are able to help the orthodox pandit. The exchange of lectures and the establishment of honorary extension lectures suggest themselves, therefore, as affording means of intercommunication and as likely to prove of benefit to both.

Then, again the University has recently initiated a collection of Sanskrit and Bengali manuscripts

and opened up great possibilities in their collation and cataloguing and in making them generally available to the public. In such a work you are eminently fitted to co-operate and collaborate, and I would suggest your opening negotiations with the University, the authorities of which, I am sure, you will find most accommodating.

I would also appeal to the members of this Samaj for their sympathy and help in building up the endowment fund which Lord Lytton opened for a Chair of Sanskrit in the University and which shows little signs of reaching the requisite figure of one lakh of rupees. In fact, only Rs. 14,000 has been subscribed, which means an addition of Rs. 1,000 during the past year. Surely the people of Eastern Bengal are not satisfied with this—or does it in fact represent the degree of their interest in their ancient learning and literature ?

You, pandits, in your cloistered seclusion are sheltered from the storm and stress of public life; you avoid the glitter of fame and escape the vanities of seeming power. But none the less you exercise your healthful influence, unseen but effective, on the history of Bengal.

You are rarely heard of by the ordinary public as you pursue the even tenour of your way with no thought of publicity or popular applause. You have your ideals, to which you remain true and from which neither political unrest nor material ambition can deflect you. The traditions and the influence which you represent give to Bengal, and indeed India, that permanency and individuality, which is typical of them.

Everything is in a state of flux, is in process of becoming, but even this process involves the presence of some permanent nucleus without which development would be impossible. It is such influences as yours that provide this nucleus.

It is not really the sensational that contributes most towards the making or determination of a nation; it is the normal and the typical, and the pandits help to supply this.

You have referred to the fact that you maintain the old structure of education—the personal equation between pupil and teacher—and you claim that the idea of the residential University is based on this, that in fact the Dacca University is the modern edition of the Sanskrit *śālā*, where the pupils reside as members of the family of their preceptor, who looked after their intellectual and spiritual needs. There is, indeed, nothing new under the Sun; much of what is best in the old *śālā* system is reproduced here in the Dacca University, and, as I have suggested before, the two systems can help each other very materially.

I congratulate the Samaj on the increase in the number of candidates for the various examinations and the satisfactory results; I trust that this improvement will be maintained.

In conclusion, I must thank you for the welcome you have given me. I have very happy recollections of the wonderful welcome I received at Nabadwip and I can assure you that I deeply appreciate the cordial reception which the pandits of Bengal have given me there and in Dacca. Such a welcome is only in keeping with their traditional loyalty. I hope this society will long flourish and continue to do its beneficent work.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the opening of the Union
Board Conference at Chittagong, on
14th August 1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

As you probably know, I recently presided at a Conference of Union Boards at Krishnagar, I have met the Union Boards at Feni and I welcomed the opportunity of opening your Conference, because I am a whole-hearted believer in the importance of the Village Self-Government Act and the opportunities it offers to you. I dealt at Krishnagar with the criticisms on the Act and with the opposition to its working in some parts of the province; if you, gentlemen, who are working the Act find that there are difficulties or weaknesses in it, Government will welcome your criticisms and endeavour in the light of the experience of all parts of the province to improve the machinery wherever possible, and we welcome constructive proposals from any quarter, provided that their mainspring is an honest desire to improve the working of these institutions and not merely an intention to cripple them in the interests of a political propaganda. But I am convinced that the Village Self-Government Act is the only sound machinery hitherto devised to bring about that village reconstruction of which we hear so much and which we all desire, and it also gives the soundest form of political training for provincial and national self-government.

To my mind this experiment is the only one at present in the field and is well worthwhile working

hard to bring it to a successful issue. We have learnt by past mistakes and in your case the methods that have proved most successful have been adopted. The introduction of the Act was preceded by a period of careful preparation extending over three years. During this time the areas of the chaukidari unions have been carefully revised and their number reduced so as to give suitable compact Union Board areas; the chaukidari assessment has been carefully revised so as to remove inequalities and unfairness; the actual meaning and the method of working of the Act has been carefully explained and in particular it has been brought home to you that the additional taxation is entirely a matter that rests with the Union Boards themselves and that Government have no desire to press the imposition of any extra assessment, but are content to leave it to the certainty that when you take up the work in earnest, you will realize the advantages to yourselves of carrying out work of immediate and urgent importance and will be willing to provide either the money or the labour necessary for that purpose. Union Boards were working successfully in other areas before the Act was introduced here and you have had the advantage of seeing the work done and appreciating its benefits. As I said at Krishnagar, I have always found that when Union Boards have been given a fair trial, the people have appreciated the Act and realized to the full the opportunity of managing their own affairs and improving the conditions of their own daily life. When the Act was introduced here last year therefore it had a fair chance; the local press was enlightened enough to discuss it on

its merits and realize its advantages, and the District Board, which can exert so much influence one way or another in a matter of this sort, extended its sympathy and aid from the outset and has contributed Rs. 40 to each Board, besides making special grants amounting to Rs. 1,000.

And you, gentlemen, have taken the fullest advantage of this favourable atmosphere. The Cox's Bazar subdivision is not yet suited for the application of the Act, but it has been extended to the whole of the Sadar subdivision and 158 Union Boards have been established. Holding as I do that the Union Board is not merely a machinery for the collection of the chaukidari tax, but an institution for self-improvement and self-government, I think a fair criterion of their work is the extent to which they realize the advantage of spending money on their own essential needs and the actual objects on which that money has been spent. When I see that in this second year of the Board's existence the total voluntary assessment amounts to Rs. 20,771 and that this represents an increase of Rs. 10,178 over the previous year, I realize, indeed, that you appreciate and welcome the introduction of the Act and intend to make full use of it. Just think of the various uses to which the income so obtained has been put. In some Unions the money has been spent on the improvement of communications, in others on the provision of medical aid or water-supply, in others again on measures for the improvement of health conditions.

Its distribution in each locality has been governed by the peculiar requirements of that locality and it is obvious that villagers will accept

the principle of such taxation far more readily if they know it is to be spent for their own good, than if it is to be utilized on some remoter area.

I am not disappointed and I make no complaint because some of the Unions have not yet taken advantage of these opportunities. I am confident that when they see the advantages obtained by others by utilizing their own resources, they will follow their example.

It is the policy of Government to give most help to those who help themselves most, and I hope that the District Board will adopt the same policy.

It is clear that if any marked progress is to be made in improving the conditions of rural life in Bengal, some system which follows the co-operative principle must be adopted. The Union Board combines all the advantages of such a system; it knows the needs of each village within its jurisdiction and is the obvious agency for carrying out works of improvement in the villages of which it is composed. I understand that this has been recognized by the Local Board, which has made over to the Union Boards the repair of all its important roads. This co-operation of the Local and District Boards augurs well for the success of the movement and it is gratifying to find that there is no feeling of jealousy or resentment, but that they realize that they are all parts of a machinery which has been built up for the more effective administration of the district generally and that they all have their functions to perform in conformity with each other.

You have found various spheres in which your efforts can be directed and I know that other

spheres will suggest themselves. You have already realized the benefits which you derive directly from the powers conferred upon you; but they have other benefits almost equally valuable—if less direct; this working together for the common good creates an atmosphere of fellowship and interdependence, it breaks down artificial barriers and trains the character. The Union Board is the training ground for the larger political life: village self-government is the foundation on which provincial self-government must be built and on the care and thoroughness with which the foundations are laid depends the strength and permanence of the whole structure.

The important thing in the earlier stages is to do nothing to prejudice the villagers against the operation of the Act; it is essential to win the goodwill and confidence of your fellow-villagers and to satisfy them that Union Boards have been instituted solely in their interests and that they derive immediate benefits from their judicious administration. They will then gain confidence and strain every nerve to co-operate in the application of the Act. When the time is ripe you can complete the structure by the formation of Union Benches and Courts and each Union will then become a small self-sufficing state, responsible for the management of its own affairs. This sphere of the work of the Village Self-Government Act has a great future for the avoidance of unnecessary litigation, especially in a district like Chittagong where communications are difficult and large areas are remote from the courts. I approve of the intention of the local officers to proceed with caution and to recommend

for judicial powers only those who have won the full confidence of the people among whom they live. On those who are first appointed to do judicial work will devolve a great responsibility to prove, what I believe to be the case, that in the rural areas of a district there are men to be found who can safely be entrusted with these important duties.

In leaving you to your deliberations I wish the Union Boards in this district all success.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the prorogation of the Bengal
Legislative Council, on 20th August
1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

On the eve of the dissolution of the Council it is obviously suitable that the Governor should wish god-speed to the members and review the work that has been accomplished since they first assembled to take their part in the constitutional Government of the Presidency, and I was all the more desirous of coming among you to-day because after a long personal association with the Legislative Council of Bengal this is the last opportunity I shall have of addressing you. But the very fact of this association makes it the more difficult for me to undertake an impartial appraisement of the controversies, inseparable from Parliamentary development, in which I have myself taken part and I shall, therefore, content myself with a brief review of the general facts and tendencies during the life of the present Council.

The chief landmark has been the election by yourselves of your own President. We owe a debt of gratitude to Sir Evan Cotton for accomplishing the task of guiding the somewhat torrential waters of the reformed Council into the safe channel of precedent, but I think we can say that the wisdom of Parliament has been justified in setting an early term to the period of tutelage and we need have no fear that the Council will ever be unable to produce from its own members men capable of guiding its

destinies. Another important advance which is at present in the experimental stage, as its effect cannot be seen till the coming elections, is the removal of the disqualification which prevented women from being voters.

The legislative output has been small. Apart from emergency measures it has consisted mainly of small amendments to existing Acts necessitated by altered circumstances and the two measures of importance passed are the Dacca University Act and the Howrah Bridge Act. There has been a considerable increase in the number of private Members' Bills—an indication of an increasing desire for constructive work—while the fact that only two out of 30 have actually been passed is a proof, I think, that the Council realizes the danger of piecemeal or haphazard legislation, and it is by means of Resolutions and the discussions on the Government proposals, financial or otherwise, that the Council has made its weight principally felt.

I think the historian of the future will say that the life time of the present Council has been a critical period of its development. All are working for the same end, but there has been a clash of political theories and practices. At the commencement we had with us Ministers taken from the elected members of this Council and administering the departments for which this Council was peculiarly responsible. The storm has centred round them and after many vicissitudes they have temporarily disappeared, their departments are no longer the peculiar responsibility of this Council and the main feature of the scheme embodied in

the Government of India Act to transfer responsibility to the people is for the time being eliminated. As a member of the Southborough Committee, I personally regret it, but time alone will show whether this or the throwing out of the departmental budgets will hasten the advent of the ideal we are all working to materialise. Of this at least I am confident that the storm and stress has not been in vain and that whatever may be the outcome, it has been a stage in the development of the political life of Bengal.

You, gentlemen, have now to face the toils and risks of a general election. It is right that all should be confident of success, but some at least must necessarily fall out by the way. It is useless to ignore the general apprehension that the coming elections will give occasion for a further outburst of the communal passions which have been responsible for so much suffering already and which are unfortunately not yet allayed. A great responsibility rests on all parties and on all individual candidates to use their utmost endeavour to prevent this danger materialising. Excitement is inseparable from elections and our experience has shown that in times of communal tension each side sees provocation in every act of the other. The danger can be avoided only if each individual resolves that in his every act and speech he will set peace before him as his aim.

In conclusion, gentlemen, may I strike a more personal note? I am shortly leaving Bengal after 31 years in her service, and no man can be unmoved when he is parting with associations in which he has passed the greater part of his life. I am

returning to Bihar where I began my official life when it was associated with Bengal, and I look forward to a happy and, I trust, a useful term there and to the renewal of many pleasant friendships, but I sincerely hope that I shall not lose the many friends I have made in Bengal. My connection with this Council or its predecessors began in 1910 when my first official Act was the introduction of the Calcutta Improvement Bill. Since then I have played many parts on this stage and more especially of late years it has fallen to my lot to be protagonist in many controversies, and it has been my duty to put forward views and press for action repugnant to many of you; nevertheless I shall always have the happiest recollections of pleasant personal relationships with members of all shades of opinion and valued friendships formed within these walls. I am very grateful for the understanding sympathy that has made these recollections possible.

This Council now stands prorogued.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at St. Andrew's Colonial Homes,
Kallimpong, on 24th September 1926.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

This is your birthday, and first and foremost I must wish you on behalf of us both the good old wish of many happy returns of the day. This is the first Anniversary ceremony of the Homes which I have attended, but I have heard so much of it and of the birthday spirit of jollity and comradeship which always prevails on this day, that I am particularly glad to have had the opportunity of witnessing it once before I leave Bengal for good. However, although I am leaving Bengal, I am not leaving India; I am merely stepping across the border to the neighbouring Province of Bihar and Orissa; this may prevent me from visiting you, but my interest in you will not be abated; indeed the province to which I am going contributes an appreciable number of girls and boys to the Homes, and I believe I am right in saying that some of the best friends that the Homes have had have resided in Bihar; and the Bhagalpur (Grant) and Birissa Cottages bear witness to the interest and generosity of such friends.

My pleasure at being here to-day is somewhat tempered by the knowledge that this will, in all probability, be my last visit to Kalimpong and by the absence of my old friend, Dr. Graham. He is so inseparably connected with one's idea of the Homes, that they are incomplete without him; but we cannot grudge him his holiday, for even he must take

a holiday sometimes, though I am rather afraid that in his case the word holiday is a misnomer, his leave merely consisting of a change of scene; for throughout his absence from India he is thinking of, and working for, the Homes.

My personal acquaintance with the Homes has not, I am afraid, been of long duration, but from the very first I was immensely struck with all that I saw here. The whole design of the Homes is framed with a view to giving the boys and girls the very best opportunities of educating themselves and becoming healthy, useful citizens of the Empire. I use the words "educating themselves" advisedly; for the whole value of education lies in teaching people to teach themselves. And I think the Homes are admirably suited to this purpose. Here you have a small city state, self-contained, self-sufficient, a colony which lives in itself and for itself and largely provides its own wants. The object of education is, to use a hackneyed expression, *Mens sana in corpore sano*; the surroundings in which you live, the general curriculum and conditions of your life are calculated to produce the healthy robust body, and the devoted work of the teachers is a sufficient guarantee that the minds will be given an opportunity of developing on sound vigorous lines. But the motto perhaps omits one very important factor in education, namely, the formation of character. The mind may tell us what is right, but, unless we have the will to carry it out, such knowledge is useless.

The discipline, the intimate relationship of worker and pupil, the general atmosphere of reverence, show that this aspect is fully appreciated,

The conditions of development are, therefore, almost ideal and all the workers are to be congratulated on the advantage they have taken of their opportunities and on the success which has attended their endeavours. But if the full benefits are to be obtained from the Homes, the children must obviously react to the efforts of the workers.

Now a birthday is essentially a children's festival—and so I feel that to-day is your day and that I ought to say a few words to you boys and girls. I have already wished you all many happy returns of the day; at first sight this may seem strange, as most of you will not have many more September 24ths to spend here, but it is not so strange as it seems, for even after you have left this place you will still be members of the Homes and will participate in its birthday, however many hundreds of miles away you may be; the mere fact of your departure from Kalimpong will not mean that you give up membership of its brotherhood, and the number of messages which have been received to-day from old boys and girls indicates that they appreciate the privilege of continued membership. You have wonderful opportunities here; have you taken full advantage of them? You will soon be going out into the world, where you will have to fight your own fights and make your own ways. You will have many difficulties to overcome and your success in doing so will largely depend on what use you have made of your privileges here.

You must, therefore, get into training from the outset. You have all heard of the Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race; well, weeks before this race

takes place the crews are practising hard every-day—but their training also involves them in considerable hardships and self-denial; they have to give up smoking and cakes and sweets, because these would affect their wind and staying power. I dare say that some of you will find that you are not so comfortable about climbing these hills after your feast of this afternoon. The race only takes 20 minutes to row and yet they think it worth while to deny themselves so many comforts for weeks on end, in order to be in good training for it and to do justice to themselves and their University.

The race which you will have to compete in will last not 20 minutes only but your whole life time; there is, therefore, all the more need for you to train yourselves rigidly for it. Don't let yourselves become flabby; it is easy to avoid this if you determine to give your whole attention to anything which you take up. If a thing is worth doing at all, whether it is a game or work, it is worth doing well; don't be sloppy. The things which are most worth doing are those which are hardest to do. Those prizes are most valuable which have involved most work, and this requires grit and perseverance. Perhaps you know the story of Demosthenes, the Greek citizen, who lived over two thousand years ago: how he was determined to become a good orator, and how he strove to overcome his physical defects. He used to shut himself up for months and study declamation, and he would then practise recitation as he climbed steep hills or as he walked along the stormy shore of the sea with pebbles in his mouth so as to ensure his being fluent and audible; his indomitable

perseverance carried him through and he became the world's most celebrated orator.

The same lesson of perseverance is taught by the story of Robert Bruce and the spider, and I could quote many other such instances from history and fable, but many must occur to you; they all teach the same story—that perseverance will overcome seemingly impossible obstacles and that nothing is worth achieving unless it involves effort. That is why such enterprises as the assault on Mount Everest, the expeditions to the North Pole or the attempts to swim the English Channel or to fly round the world appeal so vividly to our imagination. The adventure and danger of such exploits attract men and provide the incentive to undertake them.

Here, in Kalimpong, things are made as easy as possible for you, but even here you are faced with difficulties and obstacles, which probably seem almost insuperable to you, while you are still at school and which require all your exertions to overcome them. As you are able to surmount these, so will you be able to meet those obstacles with which you are bound to be faced when you leave the Homes.

Here you have the loving care of Dr. Graham and his fellow-workers to help you, but even when you are out in the world their interest will follow you and be an inspiration to you and a rock of refuge when you feel tempted to succumb to difficulties.

The Homes provide an excellent training ground, where you can prepare yourselves and form the

habits which will be invaluable in after life. You are Knights, as it were, preparing to be admitted into the Order of Knighthood. On the eve of being Knighted, in days of old, the Knight had to watch his arms all night before the altar and so prepare himself for the privileges and responsibilities, with which he was to be invested on the following day, by vigil, fast and prayer. Let this sojourn at the Homes be your vigil, let your beautiful chapel be your altar, so that you too may be fully prepared to win your way in the world and be a credit and honour to the Homes, where you have been taught.

***His Excellency Sir Hugh Stephenson's
Speech at the Inauguration of the
through Broad-Gauge Railway Service
between Calcutta and Siliguri, on 1st
October 1926.***

MR. PEARCE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

You have thanked me and your other guests for coming here to-day, but I think that we should be the ones to be grateful, both because of the hospitality you have extended to us and because of what this gathering represents. As Mr. Pearce has said, we see to-day "the consummation of a long-desired hope," and this ceremony means that those of us who have occasion to visit Darjeeling in future will be able to do so with the maximum of comfort and ease. You, who have just come up in the first train to be run direct from Calcutta to Siliguri, have had a taste of what the journey will be and of the comfort with which it can be performed. I know that nowadays with the separation of Railway Finance the schemes of the Railway Board must be shown to be remunerative and that the temptation to regard passenger traffic as of very secondary importance must be great in consequence. My experience of this railway, however, has been that the interests and convenience of the public are carefully considered and influence its policy and ideals. This is, I think, exemplified in the expeditious manner in which they carried out the present scheme as soon as the financial stringency imposed by the great war permitted.

Mr. Pearce has told us how before the Eastern Bengal Railway was constructed the journey to Darjeeling took some 20 days, and our minds naturally go back, with perhaps some feeling of regret, to the spacious days when Sir Joseph Hooker, allowing himself ample time for meals and his botanical diversions and not taking quite the most direct route, performed the journey in under three months. There is much to be said for such leisurely travelling, but in these days of aeroplanes and wireless I think one would emerge from a journey of that sort a Rip Van Winkle out of touch with political developments and commercial grievances, and almost forgotten by one's friends and with the Howrah Bridge as almost the only link with one's past.

It is 30 years since I paid my first visit to Darjeeling; there was, indeed, railway connection then, but I remember the thrills of the channel crossing from Damukdia to Sara Ghât which prevented one concentrating on the dinner on board the steamer. Since 1915, the transshipment stage has gradually been extended north until it has to-day reached its ultimate goal. I have the sentimental satisfaction of knowing that I travelled up to Darjeeling two days ago on the last train that performed the journey under the old conditions and I am glad that, having experienced all the other vicissitudes of this journey, I am to have an opportunity once before I leave Bengal of going from Siliguri to Calcutta in one and the same carriage. The presence of so many who have travelled up from Calcutta specially for this ceremony, guarantees that I need have no fears about

the comfort or safety of the journey which I am to do a week hence.

Mr. Pearce has referred to the benefits which will be derived from the completion of the Broad-Gauge Extension, benefits which will be shared by commerce, the general public and, I imagine, through increased receipts, the railway itself, and it is appropriate that all these interests should be represented here to-day.

The Eastern Bengal Railway has played a very important part in the development of this province. The natural features of the country and the geographical difficulties, which the authorities have had to overcome, have only increased the value of its contribution to the expansion of trade, especially in North and East Bengal. The completion of the present scheme will stimulate trade still further by promoting more rapid transportation and by reducing the risk of loss or damage to goods from transshipment. The elimination of the delay consequent on transshipment and the greater carrying capacity of the wagons should result in an appreciable saving of time and should prove of real benefit to the tea and jute-growing districts of Northern Bengal in particular.

The public will now be able to perform this journey to the hills in comfort; leaving Calcutta after office hours they will be able to be up in Darjeeling in time for a late breakfast on the following day. Let us hope that this will enable more people to benefit by the healthy climate of our hill stations and that it will react to the advantage of those stations themselves. It may

even give us a "brighter Darjeeling" in the place of that hill station of whose decadence and dullness we heard so much in the Press some months ago. Here is an opening for the Eastern Bengal Railway, Publicity Department, whose elegant and interesting brochure is in your hands, to increase and boom the amusements and amenities of Darjeeling. My only fear is that, if they are too successful the complaint will be that Darjeeling is too gay and does not allow her visitors to enjoy the grandeur of her scenery in quiet: for after all we must have a grouse.

• Who knows but what this completion of direct communication between the summer and winter capitals of Bengal will not remove another perennial cause of complaint?

I can see enterprising examiners setting some such essay as "Estimate the influence of the Broad-Gauge Extension on the Darjeeling Exodus." After the supreme efforts that the Eastern Bengal Railway have made, we shall be practically living in the suburbs of Calcutta and our critics after penning a slashing attack can be in Darjeeling before it appears in print to cool their fevered brows and see how we take their criticism.

During my brief tenure of the Governorship of Bengal I have been privileged to be associated with the inauguration of two new lines on this system—the Krishnagar-Nabadwip Light Railway and this Broad-Gauge Extension. This expansion is typical of the enterprise of the railway, and having completed this important work they will be able to direct their energies to other schemes and I feel

sure they will not rest content until they have covered the Presidency with a net work of feeder lines.

On behalf of the public, I congratulate the engineers and all who have contributed in any way to this consummation of our hopes on the expedition with which they have completed their task. On behalf of the guests, I thank you again, Sir, for your hospitality and the courtesy which you have shown us in permitting us to be present on this occasion. I desire to add my personal thanks for the memento which you have so kindly presented me. I hope the opening of the Broad-Gauge Extension will be the inauguration of a new area of prosperity for the railway and for the commerce of Bengal.

I would ask you to drink to the continued prosperity of the Eastern Bengal Railway.

Speeches

delivered by

His Excellency

The Earl of Lytton, P.C., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E.,

Governor of Bengal,

during

1926-27.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Darjeeling
Planters' Association Dinner, on 9th
November 1926.***

MR. MACKIE AND GENTLEMEN,

Well do I remember the occasion when soon after my first arrival in Darjeeling you welcomed me at a dinner in this Club. You then accepted me as a Pabaria among Pabarias and presented me as it were with the freedom of your hills. That was my first taste of the planters' hospitality and in the four and half years that have supervened I have had many other opportunities of appreciating it. 'Till I came to India, whenever I wanted to describe a specially impressive banquet, I was accustomed to compare it to a city dinner, but henceforth I shall find a more expressive phrase in the words "a planter's luncheon." A planter's luncheon is indeed something to remember. I shall not easily forget any one of those of which I have partaken on the gardens in this neighbourhood. On each occasion, as course followed course, my host has apologised to me for the "very simple" fare provided. I might have replied in the words of an old Norfolk clergyman, who figured in the grown up world of my childhood and who used to say of the food at his own table "it is very simple but I enjoy it immensely."

In 1922, Mr. Mackie, we met as strangers. Your kind words encourage me to believe that we are parting as friends. I don't know that I can claim to have done anything to deserve your friendship.

It is true that when we first met you told me that tea had been having a bad time and that while I have lived amongst you your gardens have been realising about 100 per cent., but I cannot claim any responsibility for this very satisfactory state of affairs. I hope it will long continue. I have at least had the privilege of getting to know many of you personally and I have on my side much to thank you for. If I can say truly that my happiest hours in India have been spent in Darjeeling and that my home among the hills is the one I shall leave with the most regret, that is due to the pleasure which excursions among your gardens have afforded me. I have, as you reminded me, Mr. Mackie, travelled far and wide in this neighbourhood. I have visited every garden that I can see from Government House and many others that are more remote. With the possible exception of Dr. Farquharson I think I can claim to know the Darjeeling district as well as any of its inhabitants. I can even claim to have penetrated to some places unknown to Dr. Farquharson himself, for in following his directions I have so often lost my way that I am familiar with jungle paths that no one would voluntarily have travelled! I have heard it said by visitors from Calcutta that there is nothing to do in Darjeeling; I have found plenty. I have heard the complaint that in Darjeeling there is only one road; I have found others! Gentlemen, I believe that you welcome the days when you can climb the hill and make your way to Darjeeling. I can truly say that my red letter days have been those when I have gone down the hill and wandered among the superb valleys and hill sides where you have your

homes and grow your tea. In fact my experience tempts me to parody Kipling's words and exclaim "What do they know of Darjeeling who only Darjeeling know"!

It is very noticeable to anyone who tours in this district that you live among a smiling population. That is perhaps the best augury for the future success of your industry. So long as your coolies continue to smile, your shareholders will probably smile also, and I trust that it may be long before any politicians from a distance seek to disturb their "placid, pathetic contentment."

Mr. Mackie, you have spoken of the changes that have taken place in the district in the last 4½ years, notably in the matter of improved communications. In so far as the advent of the motor car has made your gardens more accessible to each other and to Darjeeling, thereby helping to diminish the loneliness of a planter's life, it is to be welcomed. I have no doubt that the next few years will see a great development of this new traffic. Mr. Hewett has assured me that we have only seen the beginning of the small car in this neighbourhood. I only hope that the small car will not see the end of the intrepid Mr. Hewett. His achievements as a pioneer motorist certainly deserve to live among the legendary stories of heroic man. But, gentlemen, though I am glad for your sakes that the side car and the baby Austin have brought you nearer to each other, yet I shall never regret that my residence in Darjeeling took place at a time when I could only visit you on foot or on a pony, for the beauties of your gardens have been greatly increased in my eyes by the difficulties I have

experienced in reaching them. Indeed, Mr. Mackie, I think it is time for me to depart; for the future you have depicted tonight, when the Lammergeier shall have given place to the flying Paharia and human kites go whirling through the mist, is one that I would rather read about than witness.

The Fishing and Shooting Club to which you have referred is a child of mine which has not grown as rapidly as I could have wished. I had hoped that before I left I should have seen a full list of members and a sufficient income from their subscriptions to have enabled watchers to be placed upon the rivers and possibly a new bungalow for fishermen erected in the Rangeet valley. This child I leave in your keeping and I hope that you will take enough interest in it to make it of real value to the sportsmen of the district.

Another protégé of mine for which I desire to solicit your interest and patronage is the Darjeeling Natural History Museum. I found this institution in a moribund condition. I am happy to say that, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Lister and Dr. Shaw, it is now once more thoroughly healthy. With their help we were fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Inglis as Curator and the present excellent condition of the Museum is due entirely to his efforts. But, gentlemen, Mr. Inglis cannot maintain the museum single-handed and I trust that the members of this Club will give him their support. I consider that the Museum is of real educational value, of real interest to sportsmen and lovers of natural history and a real asset to Darjeeling. I earnestly hope that it will not again be allowed to fall into a state of neglect.

Gentlemen, I must now take my leave of you and ask you to accept my sincere thanks for all the kindness you have shown during the years that I have lived among you. This is the first of many leave takings which unfortunately lie before me in the next few months and I think it is going to be the hardest of them all. I and my family have derived so much happiness from our life in Darjeeling that we shall say good bye to it with very heavy hearts. We have made and shall leave here many friends. It will always be a pleasure to us to hear your news and to welcome you when you come to England. We shall follow with interest and sympathy the fortunes of that industry with which you have made us familiar and I hope that in the years to come I may never be without my Darjeeling tea! It will be a great consolation to Lady Lytton and myself when we leave India to know that we have earned your regard and are carrying away with us the good wishes of the planter community. We value your friendship and wish you all prosperity in the years to come.

Joint Address presented by the Commissioners of the Darjeeling Municipality and the Members of the District Board, Darjeeling, on 10th November 1926.

We, the Chairman and Commissioners of Darjeeling Municipality and members of District Board, desire to thank you, on the occasion of your departure, for the interest you have always displayed in matters concerning the welfare of this town and district. It is no secret that Darjeeling is closed to your heart, and we rejoice that Your Excellency has found here a solace among the many trials and vicissitudes of your Administration, which have been so successfully surmounted. The people of this district will always regard Your Excellency as their friend and benefactor. We beg to offer Your Excellency and the Countess of Lytton our respectful good wishes and farewell.

*Address presented by the Members of the Anjuman
Islamia, Darjeeling, on 10th November 1926.*

We, the members of the Anjuman Islamia of Darjeeling, on our own behalf and on behalf of the Mussalmans of the district, whom we have the honour to represent, respectfully beg leave to present Your Excellency on the eve of your departure from our midst with this humble address as a token of our esteem and regard.

2. The interest, which Your Excellency always evinced in the affairs of the Anjuman and Your Excellency's uniform kindness, has won for you an abiding place in our affection, and it is with a heavy heart that we, Mussalmans of the district, bid Your Excellency farewell from the district of Darjeeling.

3. During the period of Your Excellency's administration our Anjuman has diligently pursued its policy of promoting the mental and moral welfare of our community and it is a matter for gratification that its many-sided activities towards that end have borne fruit. Our Juma Masjid and the attached Guest-house have been completed, the deficit in our building fund to the extent of Rs. 13,000 have now been nearly paid off; the boys' school, which Your Excellency kindly 'opened', has now been raised to the standard of a Junior Madrassa and is daily increasing in popularity; the girls' school, towards the building fund of which Your Excellency's Government kindly contributed a sum of Rs. 7,000, has now been established on a firm footing in its own building and is now conducted by a fully qualified undergraduate Headmistress.

A plot of land adjacent to the girls' school has been acquired for providing a playground for the girls, but for want of funds we have not yet been able to enclose and level it. We have also started a *maktab* at Sookiapokri for the education of the Muhammadan boys of the locality.

4. It is the foremost aim of our Anjuman to live in peace and concord with our neighbours and to promote peace and good will among the many races and creeds who reside in the district, while communal tension and communal disputes have disturbed the peace in many districts of Bengal. We are proud to say that we have succeeded in establishing perfect amity and friendship in this district, and we assure Your Excellency that the Anjuman will not leave any stone unturned in future to maintain this happy state of affairs.

5. In conclusion, we wish Your Excellency and the Countess of Lytton long life, happiness and prosperity. May the great *Allah* shower His choicest blessings upon you.

Address presented by the Members of the Hillmen's Association, Darjeeling, on 10th November 1926.

We, the members of the Hillmen's Association, Darjeeling, consisting of the Nepalese (Gurkhas), Tibetans, Lepchas and Bhutias, bid Your Excellency and the Countess of Lytton farewell with a heavy heart.

2. We always felt proud to have in Your Excellency a Governor whom we considered as one of us being born in the mountain heights of Simla, and we had the feeling that Your Excellency will have a soft corner in your heart for the people of the Himalayas. But, alas! the time has come when we have got to part.

3. It is unnecessary to enumerate here in detail the many kindnesses which we have received from Your Excellency and from Your Excellency's Government, but we do not know how to express our sense of deep gratitude to Your Excellency for all this.

4. Our Association has always tried to live in peace and harmony with the various castes and creeds, who inhabit this mountain region and we can confidently say that we shall leave no stone unturned to have that mutual good-will, which exists at present, continued.

5. Your Excellency's inspiring advice to the hill people during Your Excellency's arrival here in connection with politics had been of the greatest value to us and we have tried our best to follow it.

6. In conclusion, we wish Your Excellency and the Countess of Lytton all future happiness, and we are confident that Your Excellencies will always remember us.

***His Excellency's Reply to the Addresses
presented at Darjeeling, on 10th November
1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

When you received me on this same spot and presented me with addresses of welcome on my arrival in Darjeeling four and half years ago, I told you that perhaps because I was born among the mountains, I felt their attraction so strongly that I was not happy unless I could visit them at least once a year. You will not be surprised, therefore, when I tell you now that not only have my happiest hours in India been spent among your hills, but that without these hills I could not have carried on my work. Every year I have found here not merely physical recreation but mental refreshment. You have reminded me in your addresses that here in Darjeeling Moslems, Hindus and Buddhists all live peacefully together and find nothing to quarrel about. That is only natural, for the hills breed clarity and contentment; they produce clear vision, respect of self and tolerance of others. If only the political and industrial disputants of the world could be compelled to come here to discuss their differences how great would be the gain to the peace of the world! Strikes and revolutions would soon lose their interest under the untroubled gaze of the immemorial hills. When the Royal Commission comes to India to enquire into the working of the Act of 1919, one of the subjects which presumably it will consider is whether or not the Darjeeling district shall be made

a constituency of the Bengal Legislature or remain as at present a separate administrative unit. I will not attempt to forestall its decision or to interpret your wishes in the matter, but I will tell you what my recommendation would be, if I were asked to give evidence before that Commission. I would recommend that our public men should seek the inspiration for their speeches in Darjeeling, and that every newspaper office should be transferred to the hills! If that were done, many of the speeches which are now made would remain unspoken and many of the articles now published would remain unwritten.

Gentlemen, there are some who criticise from time to time what they are pleased to call the "Hill Exodus" of the Government. In so far as this criticism merely reflects the natural irritation of those who are compelled to remain in the plains it need not be noticed. But there is some genuine misunderstanding on this subject which it would be well to clear up. The Government moves to the hills in the hot weather not, as is alleged by its critics, to enjoy itself in idleness, but because at that season of the year it can do better work in Darjeeling than in Calcutta. That, of course, is the only justification for the expense involved. Some people imagine that the Government either does not function at all or functions much less effectively when it is in Darjeeling than when it is in Calcutta. That is a complete delusion. The headquarters of a Government like the headquarters of an Army can be moved at will and should be located at the spot where it can operate most effectively. So far as administration is concerned, it is as easy to deal

with a situation in any part of the province from Darjeeling or Dacca as from Calcutta, and so far as the evolution of policy is concerned I have no hesitation in saying that the only months in which the members of the Government can give their undivided attention to questions of policy are those which are spent in Darjeeling after the termination of the Budget session of the Legislature. Believe me, the temptation to go to sleep during the hot weather months is greater in the plains than in the hills!

During my period of office I have seen many changes and improvements effected in this town and district. I saw the first stage of Local Self-Government introduced into the district, when I had the privilege in 1922 of inaugurating the District and Local Boards and I am glad to hear that they have been doing good work and justifying the confidence which Government placed in the good sense of the people. I opened the first municipal primary school in this town and among the great secondary schools which are so important a feature of Darjeeling I have been glad to see some improvements. The Queen's Hill School has moved to a magnificent new site and is now one of the finest schools in the district. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Forbes, valuable additions have been made to the Loreto Convent School. The Baby Clinic, which was opened during my absence on leave, indicates that the municipality and the public are alive to the importance of improving the health conditions of the people. The broad-gauge extension to Siliguri has been opened, roads have been improved, fresh buildings have sprung up, the

Lower Beechwood Estate has been acquired and is being developed. I congratulate you, Municipal Commissioners and Members of the District Board, on these indications of the progress and increased prosperity of your town and district.

The Anjuman has referred to the interest I have taken in their affairs and I am glad to learn that they, too, have made such satisfactory progress and have been able to add to their material assets. Your efforts to promote the intellectual and moral welfare of your community have not brought you into conflict with the interests of any other community and the happy relations which prevail here afford a valuable object-lesson showing that difference in religion need be no barrier to co-operation in the public interest.

The Hillmen's Association embraces all the numerous races and religions which are to be found in this district and which make it so interesting and picturesque. You represent a diversity of peoples and naturally have their welfare at heart; you have wisely devoted your attention largely to the amelioration of their economic welfare and to raising their educational standard. Whatever the future may bring forth, I am confident that your Association will play an increasingly important part in the life of this district.

Gentlemen, when I last addressed you in this place Darjeeling was still unknown to me except by reputation. I was eagerly looking forward to making its acquaintance and enjoying its beauties. Since that day it has become very familiar to me. I have come to know it in all its moods—I have explored both its heights and its depths and I have

grown to love it dearly. Now that the time has come to say good-bye, Lady Lytton and I are very sad. We shall never forget the happy days we have spent here and shall always follow with interest the future history of a place which has been our home for five consecutive summers, where we have made many friends and met with great kindness. Gentlemen, I thank you for your addresses and for all the courtesy and kindness you have shown to us while we have lived amongst you. In bidding you a regretful farewell I pray that all prosperity may attend your town and district in the future, and that the happiness and contentment of your people may long continue.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
of Lady Sanderson's portrait at the
Calcutta Blind School, on 19th November
1926.***

MY LORD CHIEF JUSTICE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Our feelings as we meet here to-day must necessarily be very mixed. Sadness and regret we cannot escape as we are reminded of the loss of one who was not merely our friend but the friend of the poor and the afflicted in Bengal. Gladness too we must feel when we remember how much Lady Sanderson accomplished during her life-time, an abiding memorial of which we have met to unveil. How I wish I could unveil at the same time the eyes of the poor blind children for whose welfare Lady Sanderson cared so much. They could not see their benefactress while she was alive and they cannot now see the portrait by which the artist has sought to perpetuate her memory. But they have been told, I doubt not, how much they owe to this kind friend and they will be glad to know that her features as well as her memory will be enshrined in their school. When I first arrived in Calcutta and was introduced to the various charitable institutions and organizations of public welfare which existed in this city, I found Lady Sanderson's name at the head of nearly all of them. I soon learnt that she was a kind of fairy god-mother to every good cause. Unfortunately during the years when I was privileged to know her she was a confirmed invalid but the courage and patience with which she bore her own sufferings were as remarkable as

the sympathy she displayed with the sufferings of others. Her strength diminished year by year but her energy never abated and her zeal in the service of others continued till the day of her death.

This school was perhaps the Institution which has most benefited by Lady Sanderson's amazing energy and resourcefulness and it was a very graceful thought that prompted Sir Onkur Mull Jatia to present the portrait which is to hang here in memory of her work. This was an interest which she shared in common with her husband. It was from Sir Lancelot Sanderson that I first heard of the Blind School. He was at that time very anxious about its welfare and it was largely due to his earnest championship that the requisite funds were obtained for the acquisition of this land and the removal of the school from the heart of Calcutta. He was with us last year when I opened this fine new building and our thoughts are with him to-day in deepest sympathy for the sad bereavement which has since fallen upon him. He will be touched, I know, to hear of this presentation and will appreciate the spirit of love and reverence which has inspired it. I am sorry he cannot be with us to witness this evidence of the gratitude which their friends in Calcutta feel for the noble work which he and Lady Sanderson carried out when they lived among us.

The sad fate of the blind made a special appeal to Lady Sanderson's large heart. While she was instrumental in collecting large sums for St. Dunstan's Home for blinded soldiers in England, she did not neglect those similarly afflicted in Calcutta. The "Rupee Fund", which she organized to attract

small subscriptions and thus to enable the less wealthy to show their practical sympathy with the cause, and the poem which she wrote, the proceeds of which were devoted to the Building Fund of the School, were typical of her sympathy and imagination.

But it is not only for what she did herself that Lady Sanderson deserves to be remembered but also for the results which followed from her example. Indirectly we owe to her the interest of Raja Sarat Chandra Roy Chowdhury Bahadur of Chanchal, who, himself suffering from an intimate bereavement, came forward to endow the school with a generous donation of a lakh of rupees. Even since her death Lady Sanderson's example has borne fruit, for at the last annual meeting Mr. David Ezra, the Sheriff of Calcutta, handed to Sir Lancelot a cheque for Rs. 5,000 to be devoted to some work to perpetuate the memory of Lady Sanderson. At Sir Lancelot's desire this sum was set apart to form the nucleus of a fund to be called the "Lady Sanderson Fund" for the relief of sick blind children. The governors of the school have added further contributions to this fund which now stands at over Rs. 7,000.

Such, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the force of example. Whether the example be one of courage or of charity, the fruits of a single act are increased many times by the deeds to which others are inspired thereby. When opening this building last year I spoke of the importance of the first thought, which is the small seed from which great acts may spring, and I pointed as an illustration to the great results which had followed from the

little seed planted 30 years ago by Mr. Shah. I reminded you then that the fruits had followed because the seed had been planted in love. Lady Sanderson's example is another seed sown on the same soil, which will continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

" No stream from its source

" Flows seaward, how lonely so ever its course,

" But what some land is gladden'd. No star ever rose

" And set without influence somewhere. Who knows

" What earth needs from earth's lowest creature ? No life

" Can be pure in its purpose and strong in its strife

" And all life not be purer and stronger thereby."

These words seem to me to express most fittingly the thoughts we have to-day of the friend we have met to honour and the spirit in which she would wish to be remembered.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of
the foundation-stone of a new Hospital
Block at the Calcutta Medical Institute,
on 20th November 1926.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I must begin by expressing the pleasure it gives me to see Sir Koilash Chandra Bose here to-day. I had heard he had been indisposed recently and I was afraid that he might have been prevented from attending this ceremony which, I feel sure, he would have been as sorry to miss as we should have been to find him absent. Sir Koilash is a veteran champion of medical education and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of this institution. He must, I am sure, be very happy to see the realization at last of that expansion for which he has waited and worked for so long. The short history which he has read to us brings out prominently two features of the Calcutta Medical Institute; the first is that the present happy position of the institute has been reached in the face of great obstacles and difficulties, and the second is that this success has been achieved entirely by private enterprise. The original school and hospital, from the ashes of which this institute rose, were privately founded and controlled, the present institute has been supported and maintained by private donations and its reorganization has been carried through by the strenuous efforts of private individuals. This is an achievement which reflects the greatest credit upon those

responsible for it. It is, indeed, a triumph of conviction, faith and unremitting labour. The institute has passed through difficult times and it has emerged successfully because its patrons have never allowed themselves to be deflected from their goal; their ideal of establishing a first class hospital and school where they can practise and hand on the Western system of medical science for the benefit of suffering humanity, has been the beacon light which they have steadfastly kept in view. It would have been excusable if seeing the formidable obstacles which they had to face they had given up the endeavour, but they were keenly interested in the progress of Western medical science; they were convinced that the application of this system was in the best interests of their country, they wished it to be taught and handed on by Indian doctors and teachers, and they were determined to utilize to the utmost this powerful agency for improving the conditions of their own people. This faith in themselves and in their fellow-countrymen was strong enough to convince them that their ideal was capable of attainment and they persevered patiently, tenaciously, till they attained it. Gentlemen, you have set a fine example; its influence, I am sure, will be felt far beyond the walls of this institute, beyond even the sphere of medical education. You have shown here what can be accomplished by an institution controlled and staffed by Indians and generally administered by a strong and influential committee also of Indians, when each one is imbued with the same spirit and the same ideals. You have also publicly recognized the necessity and

taught the value of a high standard of work. Such an institution as this could never hold its own for long, unless it aimed at the highest standard, and it was because you recognized this truth that you so readily responded to the advice of Government and took pains to secure recognition from the Council of Registration in Bengal. You realized the necessity, in the interests not only of this school but of medical education at large, of the existence of some such outside authority vested with the duty of setting and maintaining an independent standard and it is, therefore, to your credit that you can boast of being the first non-official medical school to receive this recognition.

As Sir Koilash has been good enough to remind you, I have taken a keen interest in the extension of facilities for medical education in the province as well as in other measures for the improvement of public health. What has pleased me most has been the evidence in recent years of the growth of a spirit of self-help in the campaign against disease. This is quite a new feature, and it is immensely encouraging. Without the intelligent co-operation of the general public and the assistance of private agencies no Government can ever secure for its people immunity from disease. We could spend crores of rupees on medical education and research and train up hosts of highly qualified doctors, and yet be no nearer to the attainment of a high standard of public health, so long as the ignorance of the general public in matters of hygiene remains and the habits which encourage disease continue. But when I see societies like the Anti-malarial Co-operative Society and the Bengal Health

Association working in the villages, enlightening ignorance and insisting on local co-operation, then I feel confident that great results will be achieved in a very few years, and I do not despair of the health of future generations even in this very unhealthy province. That, Sir Koilash, is what caused me to visit Pauhatti and other villages where the fruits of this work are to be seen. This institution is another example of the same spirit in a different field. It is a purely Indian achievement, and as such is a most encouraging sign of the times. It is now some years since I first heard of it and many of my friends have spoken to me favourably about it. Two successive Surgeons-General—Colonel Roger Wilson and General Heard—have given it their blessing. Mr. Satinath Roy has more than once been to see me to report progress and Mr. S. N. Mallik has repeatedly told me of his great personal interest in its welfare. In fact, when I saw Mr. Mallik in England a few weeks ago, his parting message to me was to be sure and help the Calcutta Medical Institute. I am delighted, therefore, that one of my earliest public acts on my return to Calcutta should be to lay the foundation-stone of a new hospital block which, when completed, will add so greatly to the usefulness of the institution.

Gentlemen, you may rest assured that such a valuable contribution as you have here made to the cause of medical education will not fail to be recognized by Government and will meet with the response from them which it deserves. At the same time I must warn you against treating a conditional promise as equivalent to cash in hand! I see that

in your latest annual report you say that the authorities of the institute have been assured of a capital grant of Rs. 50,000 and of a recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 from the Government of Bengal. I am not surprised that you should state the position in this way in the hope that it may strengthen your claim. But that is not what was promised. What we have said is that we would consider your claim together with the other demands we have to meet and that we would make a contribution as soon as funds were available, but that in no case could we give more than the two sums I have mentioned. This contribution, too, we said, would be conditional upon the balance being raised from outside sources. No doubt the categorical statements in your report were inspired by the same faith in your fellow-countrymen which has been the guiding principle of your policy hitherto. It has been justified in the past and I sincerely hope will not be disappointed in the future.

You have been handicapped hitherto by a lack of clinical material, but you have been able to meet this difficulty temporarily, thanks to the co-operation of several hospitals in Calcutta. This hospital block, of which I am to lay the foundation-stone, will provide for the hundred additional beds, the provision of which was one of the conditions of recognition by the Council of Registration. This will be a great acquisition and will not only provide for the clinical education of the students within the boundaries of the school, but will also help to meet the public requirements of medical attention for Calcutta and thus establish a strong claim on the generous support of the public.

Gentlemen, when your new block is completed and you are able to train 100 medical students, I hope you will impress upon them a fact which I have had occasion to emphasize elsewhere. It is in the villages of Bengal and not in Calcutta that the training you give them will be most valued. It may be more lucrative to restore to health a rich man who is sick than to eradicate epidemic disease from a village of poor peasants who have neither the knowledge to help you nor the means to reward you. But you will have failed with your students if you let them leave this institution in the belief that the knowledge you have imparted to them has no other purpose than to be sold for money. You will inspire them, I hope, with a higher ideal than that and send them forth with a desire to do the most good to others and not merely to earn the most money for themselves. Medical men, of course, cannot be expected to give their services for nothing—they must earn a livelihood like other professional men, and if the future needs of the rural areas are to be met, some scheme will have to be devised for endowing from a central fund the medical attendance of competent doctors upon villagers too poor to pay for their services. This is a matter which the members of the medical profession, the District Boards and the health department of Government might well take into consideration. In the meanwhile I think you could do something towards this object, if in selecting your students you were to make a point of admitting as many as possible from the remoter districts of Bengal. Such students would probably have

a greater incentive to return to their own districts on the completion of their course.

I congratulate the Governors on having entered upon this further stage in the development of their enterprise, and I hope their faith will be justified by the amount of the public support which they receive. I congratulate all those who have in various ways contributed to the present success of the institute, and I feel sure that Mr. Satinath Roy will be gratified at this visible result of his untiring zeal on its behalf and at the public appreciation of his efforts to which Sir Koilash has given expression.

I trust that the block, which is to rise upon this foundation-stone, will do much to alleviate distress and promote the cause of medical education.

***His Excellency's Speech at the St. Andrew's
Day Dinner on 30th November 1926.***

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

On behalf of all your guests whom you have entertained so hospitably and whose health you have just drunk so cordially, I beg to offer you our most grateful thanks. For the last four years you have been kind enough to associate my name with this toast because I have the misfortune not to be a Scot and therefore not eligible, like my predecessors, to become a member of your very select Society. Though but a non-Scot, I am grateful to you for letting me come as a guest, especially so this year as it enables me to discharge a debt of gratitude to the Scottish community. When we first met, I asked for your support and in the years that have followed it has never failed me. Gentlemen, I am grateful.

As usual, your guests represent all branches of public life in the province and this year they include a distinguished visitor from Scotland in the person of Lord Linlithgow. You have already welcomed him as a brother Scot, but I should like, as the Head of the Province, to offer to him and to the members of his Commission a very cordial welcome to Calcutta. Bengal is a province in which agriculture plays such a vital part that we are expecting great things from his Commission. We appreciate Lord Linlithgow's public spirit in undertaking such a laborious task and we wish him and his colleagues every success.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Prize
distribution of the Barrackpore Park
High School on 20th February 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

For the fifth and last time Lady Lytton and I offer to the staff and students of this school a cordial—may I say an affectionate—welcome. We have been closely associated with you now for so long that we almost feel this school belongs to us. In a month's time we shall be leaving India and perhaps we may never return. It is hard at all times to say good-bye and there are many places and people whom we shall be sad to part from. But there is no place that we shall mind leaving more than this lovely home which has given us so many hours of peace and rest and quiet enjoyment. Even our home in the Hills, where we have lived longer and which we have loved dearly, has not quite the same indefinable charm that we have found at Barrackpore. There is an atmosphere about this place which we have all felt yet we could none of us explain. I have often thought that our Government House in Calcutta was haunted by the anxieties of overworked men but Barrackpore is permeated by the soul of a beautiful woman. The mortal remains of Lady Canning rest at the end of this garden. Her immortal spirit, I am sure, still hallows the spot which she loved in life. It still helps the men who like her husband and herself are trying to serve India. I have often come to Barrackpore for inspiration and encouragement and I have never failed to find them—so, Mr. Headmaster, if we

gathering and I was doubtful what reception I should receive. I was not sure whether the ideas you had formed of me in advance would make it easier or harder for me to introduce myself in person. In 1923 and 1924 I was anxious because I not only had to talk politics but I had to talk seriously and I feared lest I might mar the gaiety of so festive an occasion. But each year your reception was so friendly, so cordial, so enthusiastic, that I can honestly say that among the pleasant recollections of my time in India those three evenings will always stand out as the most pleasant. You have treated me as a "brither," and I think I can say I have learnt more about Scotland since I have been in India than in all the previous years at home, when I lived nearer that country. Last year was the only occasion when I could have attended your dinner without any anxiety, secure in the knowledge of your friendship and without any necessity to deal with controversial subjects. In fact, the Viceroy himself would have been present and I should have been able to leave politics to him. Unfortunately the calamity of Queen Alexandra's death and the consequent period of court mourning prevented us from attending your dinner and I was deprived of that rare experience which I should have enjoyed. This year my anxiety has returned, not because you have left me in any doubt regarding your sentiments towards me, nor because I have any reason to suspect a change in them, but because of the knowledge that I am meeting you for the last time and once more I have to mar the gaiety of the evening by the sadness which I feel in having to say farewell. I seem to be attending my own funeral and I can only pray

that you may be able to extend to the work which I have tried to do in the last five years as much indulgence as you have always shown to me personally on these occasions.

The Chairman has compared my period of office to the lap of a runner in a relay race. In one respect the simile is apt because in a sense each successive Governor takes up a gage from his predecessors and hands it on to his successor, but I am not aware that a Governorship has any other features of a race, because the element of competition is absent and each term of office has to be judged separately without reference to its effect upon the fortunes of any particular team. As my lap is now nearly run and my successor is already preparing to receive the baton from my hands, you will pardon me, I hope, if I indulge in a few general observations which are suggested to me by my experience in Bengal. A retrospect of the last five years necessitates, as the Chairman has reminded me, a recollection of the hopes with which I assumed my office and an examination of how far they have been realized or disappointed. So far as my personal experiences are concerned, I have nothing to complain of and much to be grateful for. I have found in India much happiness. I have made many friends and I shall return home with pleasant memories of the kindness I have everywhere received. But when I ask myself whether the political hopes which I brought to this country have been fulfilled, I am bound to confess that most of them have been disappointed. I went to the India Office immediately after the passing of the Act of 1919. I learnt while I was there what

were the intentions and the hopes of the framers of that Act. I defended it in Parliament against the critics who thought that it was premature and conceded too much responsibility to people who were ill-prepared to undertake it. I am a believer in responsibility. I have never been afraid either of accepting it myself or of conceding it to others and nothing in my experience out here has shaken me in that faith. If I have any complaint to make of the existing constitution, it is that in too many matters it leaves responsibility either divided or restricted. Then I came to India with one object alone, namely, to justify the step which had been taken, and with one hope, namely, to take back with me evidence that the faith of those who had espoused the cause of Indian nationalism had been vindicated and that the fears of their critics had proved ill-founded. I hoped, as the result of my experience, to be able to show that British interests and Indian aspirations were compatible and not antagonistic and that experience of the new constitution would justify its further development in the direction intended by Parliament. I am bound to confess that the events in Bengal in the last five years have strengthened the case of the critics rather than that of the friends of the new constitution. It has been a period in which much has been tried and much has failed. Some have tried to work the constitution and have failed, others have tried to wreck it first by passive non-co-operation and subsequently by active obstruction and they, too, have failed, for it must be remembered that in so far as Diarchy has been suspended in Bengal, that has been due to the action not of

its opponents but of its friends; the former have at no time been in a majority in this province. Others again have tried to enforce their opinions by violence and intimidation and have failed. Lastly, the two great communities of Muhammedans and Hîndus have tried to keep the peace and subordinate communal interests to national interests and in the last six months they too have failed. I do not desire on the eve of my departure to attribute blame to anyone and, if there has been failure, I fully accept my share of responsibility for it. Neither do I admit that the period has been altogether unprofitable, because education may proceed on negative as well as on positive lines and a nation or an individual may learn as much by failures and mistakes as by successes. I do not mean that all the mistakes have been on one side. Parliament, too, may have erred,—not, I think, in intention but in method,—and when the time comes for the Statutory Commission to examine the question, the action of all those concerned will pass under review.

If I may venture upon the expression of a personal opinion, based upon my experience in India, I would say that in so far as there has been failure hitherto, it has been due to lack of faith upon both sides. There has been too little faith on the part of Indians in the sincerity of British intentions, and too little faith on the part of the British public in Indian friendship. Concessions to Indian demands will never be acceptable to British opinion until they are shown to be compatible with the national interests of Great Britain and British professions of sympathy with India will always be

suspect in this country in the eyes of those who look upon Britain as an enemy. The problem, therefore, for the political leaders in each country is to find a solution which will be equally commendable to both. Patriotism means zeal for the welfare of your own country and neither in India nor in Britain will a betrayal of national interests be forgiven.

Forgive me, Gentlemen, if I seem to you to be uttering platitudes, but in my last speech to you I wish rather to try and define the spirit which should govern our relations with India than to offer any comments upon current politics. A general election has just taken place in India and all the new Legislatures will soon be assuming their responsibilities in the last period of the decade which will come under the review of the Statutory Commission. There is still time, therefore, for a spirit of confidence to take the place of mistrust and in the few months of office that still remain to me, I am anxious to foster that spirit by all the means in my power.

Gentlemen, as I am not yet officially quite dead and can still speak, I will close with a last word to my friends and critics alike. It is borrowed from a poet whose initials are R. B., though he is not a Scot, and seems to me to express more happily than anything which I could say, the note, on which I would fain take my leave.

“ Man’s work is to labour and leaven—
 As best he may—earth here with heaven;
 ’Tis work for work’s sake that he’s needing;
 Let him work on and on as if speeding
 Work’s end, but not dream of succeeding!
 Because if success were intended,
 Why, heaven would begin ere earth ended.

Earth's a mill where we grind and wear mufflers ;
 A whip awaits shirkers and shufflers
 Who slacken their pace, sick of lagging
 At what don't advance for their tugging.
 Though round goes the mill, we must still post
 On and on as if moving the mill-post
 So, grind away, mouthwise and penwise,
 Do all that we can to make men wise :
 And if men prefer to be foolish,
 Ourselves have proved horselike not mulish :
 Sent grist, a good sackful, to hopper,
 And worked as the Master thought proper."

His Excellency's Addresses to Recipients of Sanads, Badges, etc., at the Durbar held in Calcutta, on 1st December 1926.

MAHARAJA JOGINDRA NATH RAY.

Your father's tragic death at the beginning of this year made you the head of an ancient house occupying a very high place in the aristocracy of Bengal. The title of Maharaja, I believe, was first bestowed upon the Nator family by a *sanad* of the Emperor Shah Alum over a century and a half ago, and for many generations it has been conferred upon the heir upon his succession to the estate. You have now succeeded to the responsibilities of your inheritance and I am glad to think that you have been deemed worthy of the honour which your ancestors enjoyed and which your late father maintained with such credit to himself and such benefit to the public.

Your family has always been held in great respect throughout Bengal for the acts of public and private charity, which have been associated with the names of its members, and for its traditional encouragement of the ancient learning of India. I congratulate you on having already shown that you are anxious to follow in the footsteps of your father, and I am confident that you will worthily support the dignity of the family and do credit to the title borne for so many generations by the head of the house. You have the best part of your life before you and, therefore, vast opportunities of

promoting the good of your tenants and of serving the best interests of your country. I am confident that you will readily seize these opportunities and use them to the benefit of your fellow-countrymen.

I congratulate you most heartily on the title which has been conferred upon you.

NAWAB MUSHARRAF HUSSAIN, KHAN BAHADUR,

You have used the opportunities, which your position as a landholder affords you, to the advantage of your fellows and as a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council you have exerted your influence wisely and with a due regard to the true interests of your constituents. You have given your staunch but discriminating support to measures which you believed to be for the good of the province, and have always acted in accordance with your convictions. While you have consistently championed the legitimate claims of your community and have made earnest and practical endeavours to improve their educational facilities, you have done so only so far as you saw that their interests did not conflict with the larger interests of the province as a whole.

I congratulate you on the title which has been conferred upon you, and I am confident that you will continue conscientiously to discharge the additional obligations which it involves.

SHAMS-UL-ULAMA MAULVI MUHAMMAD ISHAQUE,

For eight years you enjoyed what is for a Moslem of Bengal the unique honour of serving as Head of the Nanmil Madrassa, Cawnpore, and

during the last few years of your service you held the Professorship of Arabic in the Islamia Intermediate College at Dacca. You are widely known as an eminent Arabic scholar of outstanding merit and your association with that college has added lustre to its reputation. Your scholarship and erudition have won for you the respect of the world of learning and this public recognition of your pre-eminence in your own field.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT PHANI BHUSAN
TARKABAGISHA,**

You have won universal esteem as a profound Sanskrit scholar and renown as a teacher of Hindu Philosophy and Logic. For some time you have been teaching varied branches of Sanskrit literature in Benares and your numerous pupils include many of the most distinguished pandits of that ancient seat of learning. Your Bengali translation of "Gautama Sutra" is a valuable contribution to Bengali literature and the high reputation which you have earned has been won by depth of scholarship and integrity of character.

I congratulate you on the title which has been conferred upon you in recognition of your contribution to the knowledge and propagation of Sanskrit learning.

**MAHAMAHOPADHYAYA PANDIT KAMALA KRISHNA
SMRITITIRTHA,**

Your family was famous for its learning and piety and you have followed faithfully in the footsteps of your fathers. A pandit of the old school, you have proved yourself a Sanskrit scholar

of unusual profundity and width. You have rendered signal services to Sanskrit learning by editing in the Bibliotheca Indica series some of the rarest works of *Smṛiti* and a work on Astronomy ; and no less an authority than the Asiatic Society of Bengal has shown its appreciation of your merit by making you an associate member. You have done much to further the spread of Sanskrit learning, and I congratulate you on this further recognition of your high character and profound scholarship.

MR. JAMES RIDEOUT BELLETTY,

You have carried out the very onerous and responsible duties of Registrar of the Chief Secretary's Office with conspicuous success for the last five years. The supervision of this office is always a difficult and important task and of late years the responsibility has been very largely increased. You have always performed the duties with praiseworthy accuracy and punctuality, and have never spared yourself in carrying them through to the satisfaction of yourself and of successive Chief Secretaries. Your devoted assistance has contributed in no small measure to the efficiency of the office.

I have much pleasure in handing to you the Badge of the Companionship of the Imperial Service Order, to which His Majesty has been pleased to appoint you in recognition of your loyal and conscientious work.

RAI KESHAB LAL RAY CHAUDHURI BAHADUR,

Your public spirit, your conscientious work and your proficiency in your profession have won for

you universal respect. You undertook the responsibilities of your position as Chairman of the Jessore Municipality with sincerity and a single-minded regard for the good of the citizens committed to its charge. Your energies and your influence with your fellow-Commissioners were inspired with the same ideal. I congratulate you on the title which has been conferred upon you.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI QURBAN ULLAH,

Your record in various capacities in the Registration Department has been consistently good and you have shown yourself an experienced and reliable officer. You received the title of Khan Sahib in 1920 and your subsequent good work has justly won for you this further advancement.

RAI MADAN GOPAL MOHTA BAHADUR,

You have long been known for your liberality and you received the title of Rai Sahib in recognition of it in 1924; since that date you have added to your benefactions by a further donation of Rs. 8,000 to the Brahmanbaria Dispensary in the Tippera district, which had already benefited by your generosity, and by the promise of Rs. 1,000 a year for ten years to meet its cost of maintenance. You have set a fine example of disinterested philanthropy and have richly deserved this advancement to the higher title of Rai Bahadur.

RAI MALLI NATH RAY BAHADUR,

For the last 12 years you have been serving under the Calcutta Improvement Trust and you

very quickly justified your selection for the important work which you are doing. The zeal and ability which you displayed in the management of the Trust's property and in the supervision of its legal affairs received high commendation from successive Chairmen of the Trust. I congratulate you on this recognition of your services.

RAI SARADA CHARAN MITRA BAHADUR,

Having begun your career 23 years ago as an Overseer in the Public Works Department, you were specially selected in 1911 for promotion to the Provincial Engineering Service. Since that time you have held charge of important divisions and have been responsible for the construction of many large public buildings in Calcutta. Your service throughout has been marked by excellent work and devotion to duty. I trust that you will have many years in which to enjoy the well-earned leisure, which your retirement gives you.

RAI HEM CHANDRA CHATARJI BAHADUR,

Ever since your appointment to the Bengal Civil Service in 1894, your record has been uniformly good and you are now about to retire as a Magistrate and Collector. You did particularly valuable work, as Additional Magistrate of the 24-Parganas, in connection with problems arising out of the administration of the Embankment Act, and Government and the public have good reason to be grateful to you. I congratulate you on this well-merited honour.

KHAN BAHADUR MAULVI MUHAMMAD YUSUF,

For 15 years you have been Headmaster of the Anglo-Persian Department of the Calcutta Madrasa

and your services won for you the title of Khan Sahib in 1917. You have fully maintained your reputation since that date and have consistently shown yourself a headmaster of sterling worth. I am glad to be able to hand to you the *sanad* of the title to which you have been advanced for the excellent work you have continued to do in that capacity.

KHAN BAHADUR MAJLVI MUHAMMAD MAHMUD,

Your 20 years' service in the Bengal Civil Service has been uniformly good. After doing excellent work in the Settlement and Co-operative Departments you were appointed to have charge of the Government Estates in the district of Bakarganj; in this capacity also you proved yourself a very good revenue officer and your experience and ability should be of great value in the important post you now hold.

RAI INDU BHUSHAN MALLIK BAHADUR,

The ancient family in Nadia to which you belong has long been noted for its contributions towards works of public utility and charity and I am glad to see that you are carrying on its traditions of public service. An Honorary Magistrate since 1896, you have been a Member of the District Board, Chairman of the Meherpur Municipality on several occasions and Chairman of the Local Board in 1918 and 1921. Since the inception of the local Co-operative Bank in 1919, you have been its Honorary Secretary and have organized several village societies under it. In all these honorary capacities you have rendered services which have on several

occasions won the special commendations of the local officers. You play a leading part in all public movements in the Meherpur subdivision and you have always exercised your influence with the people on the side of law and order with happy results.

RAI HARKISSEN DAS BHATTER BAHADUR,

A prominent member of the Marwari community of Calcutta, you are connected with various business concerns in the city and you have always exercised the influence, which your position gives you, for the public good. You recently displayed your generosity and public spirit by a contribution of Rs. 20,000 to the Gokhale Memorial School Building Fund and your sympathy and support can be counted on in local schemes of public utility. I congratulate you on your title and hope that you will have many years to enjoy it and to give your fellow-citizens the benefit of your public spirit.

RAI BIJAY BIHARI MUKHARJI BAHADUR,

You have maintained and enhanced the reputation for good work, which won you the title of Rai Sahib in 1919, and I congratulate you on this further recognition. As Personal Assistant to the Director of Land Records, Bengal, you rendered excellent service and you have already justified your selection as Settlement Officer of the Murshidabad-Birbhum Settlement.

RAI SAHIB TINKARI BISWAS,

During the 18 years that you have worked in the Khas Mahal and Colonization Departments, you

never spared yourself in the execution of duties which have involved considerable hardship and personal risk. You were mainly instrumental in establishing the Khas Mahal market at the time of the non-co-operation movement, when the other markets were closed as the result of the agitation, and thus earned the gratitude of the tenants and their landlord.

RAI SAHIB ANATH BANDHU CHATARJI,

You entered the Settlement Department as a ministerial officer 34 years ago and have worked conscientiously and loyally ever since. The value of your services was recognized by your promotion to the Subordinate Civil Service in 1911 and in these 15 years you have done very useful work as Head-quarters Assistant Settlement Officer in the districts of Bankura and Khulna. Your career is a triumph of perseverance and devotion to duty.

RAI SAHIB AMBIKA CHARAN CHAKRABATTI,

You also have set a fine example of industry and meritorious service; for, joining the Police as a head-constable over 30 years ago, you have risen to the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police and have officiated on several occasions as Superintendent. Your work has been characterized throughout by a sound judgment and a keen sense of duty. Government delights to honour so valuable a servant.

RAI SAHIB HARI KUMAR GUPTA,

You entered the Police Department in 1908 as a probationary Inspector and have rendered excellent service in that capacity both as Court and as

Circle Inspector. You have acted continuously as Deputy Superintendent since 1915 and on two occasions were selected to officiate as Superintendent of Police. Your work has been uniformly good and you have shown yourself a reliable, active and hard-working officer.

RAI SAHIB SARAT CHANDRA PAL,

Thirty years ago you entered the Civil Veterinary Department as a Veterinary Surgeon and, after passing through various lower grades of the department, you have now attained the position of Assistant Director. Your long and meritorious service in various capacities has won the commendation of your superior officers and your record has been marked throughout by the integrity, willingness and outstanding ability which you have consistently displayed.

RAI SAHIB ATUL KRISHNA BANARJI,

You have rendered 34 years of loyal and meritorious service to Government in the Military Accounts Department and have proved yourself a most reliable and capable officer. I congratulate you on the honour which has been conferred upon you and trust you may long be spared to enjoy it.

RAI SAHIB BINOD BIHARI SADHU,

Though you have worked quietly and unobtrusively, you have been a real friend and benefactor to your village in the district of Khulna. You contributed Rs. 16,000 to the Middle English school, Rs. 13,000 to the charitable dispensary and Rs. 11,000 to other works of public utility, in addition to promises of further generous donations. By

this generosity and public spirit you have worthily fulfilled your responsibilities as a zamindar. I am very glad to have the privilege of handing this *sanaal* to so worthy a recipient.

RAI SAHIB SATI PRASAD GANGULI,

During your 21 years' service as a Sub-Deputy Collector, your work has been of the highest order and has met with universal commendation from the various district officers under whom you have served. Your experience of revenue work has been of great value to Government and Government are grateful to you for the help they have received from you.

RAI SAHIB RAJENDRA NATH BASU,

Entering the Bengal Police Department 20 years ago you won special promotion to the rank of Inspector in 1916. Your work throughout has been good and your local knowledge of Howrah has been of the greatest value. You received the King's Police Medal in 1918 and I congratulate you on this further honour, which your good services have won.

RAI SAHIB PRIYA NATH SAHA,

You have done exceptionally good and valuable work in the Medical Department of the Bengal Secretariat where you have always enjoyed the confidence and trust of your superiors. As Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General, you have continued to maintain the high quality of your work. May you long enjoy the title which has been conferred upon you.

RAI SAHIB KALI PRASANNA RAY,

By lectures, propaganda work and constant touring you have done much to bring home to thousands of villagers the essential facts of hygiene and public health and have been instrumental in forming many village societies for promoting local effort in these directions. Your work in connection with exhibitions and the Calcutta Baby Week has been especially successful and valuable. As the first Publicity Officer of the Public Health Department in Bengal, you have already made of your new post a great success.

RAI SAHIB BEPIN BEHARI SEN,

After serving the Bengal Government for over 25 years, first as a mufassal treasurer and then as Head Cashier to the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, you became Treasurer in the Calcutta Custom House, where you handle over 18 crores of Government revenue a year. During the six years you have held this post you have exercised a very great influence for good on the rest of the staff and have earned the respect of all communities among them. Your work throughout your long service has earned the warmest praise from all the officers under whom you have served. Your unimpeachable integrity, your great efficiency and your courteous tact have justly won for you this recognition.

RAI SAHIB BASANTA KUMAR MAITRA,

You entered the service of the East Indian Railway in 1904 and are now Superintendent of an important section of the office of the Chief Engineer of that Railway. Your services have been consistently loyal and meritorious and you have lived

up to the high reputation of your family. I congratulate you on the honour which you have received.

MR, HUGH WILLIAM MCGUIRE,

You had had 36 years of most meritorious service to your credit, when you retired from your post of Station-Superintendent at Naihati in August last, and it was by dint of sheer ability and industry that you had risen through the various grades of the Traffic Department to that important and responsible position in 1915. The conferment upon you of the honorary rank of Assistant Traffic Superintendent in the previous year was an indication of your outstanding capacity and of the confidence placed in you and during the last 11 years you have fully justified that confidence by the manner in which you have carried out the difficult and responsible task of controlling the transport of traffic passing between the Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railway systems at the important junction of Naihati.

I congratulate you on the *Kaisar-i-Hind* Medal, which His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General has been pleased to award you for public service in India.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR NIRMAL KANTI RAY,

The short service of seven years which you have had in the Police has been sufficient for you to make your mark. Your ability, tact and devotion to duty have made you a most valuable officer and I congratulate you on the King's Police Medal, which has been awarded to you in recognition of your services.

ASSISTANT SUB-INSPECTOR, UPENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH,

You also have displayed great ability and devotion to duty and have shown a notable disregard of your own convenience and comfort in the public interests. Your valuable services are greatly appreciated and I am gratified to be able to present so meritorious an officer with the King's Police Medal.

INSPECTOR JATINDRA NATH SINHA,

Your record, since you joined the Police as a Sub-Inspector in 1908, has been characterized throughout by specially meritorious work and you have shown marked ability in the investigation of several dacoity cases of the 24-Parganas and neighbouring districts; in 1920 and 1921, you succeeded in completely checking the activities of a dangerous Punjabi gang, whose operations extended over a very large area. You have used to excellent advantage the training, for which you were specially selected, at the Detective Training School and have made your reputation in this branch of Police work.

I congratulate you on having been awarded the King's Police Medal and on the ability, industry and skill which have earned it for you.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Loreto House Garden Fête on 10th
December 1926.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am glad of the opportunity which this fête affords me of saying a few words in support of the magnificent work which the Loreto Sisterhood has been doing for the education of the domiciled community.

In the 84 years since Loreto House was established as a school, its activities and scope have expanded so widely that it has now become the pivot of a complete educational system, which provides every type of institution required by the needs of the domiciled community. I am personally acquainted with the work of this sisterhood in their convent school at Simla and I am still better acquainted with their school in Darjeeling. Both Her Excellency and I have taken a keen personal interest in the Loreto Convent School at Darjeeling and I cannot too highly praise their splendid educational work.

Side by side with the expansion of the responsibilities, which the Sisterhood have taken upon themselves by the establishment of these schools outside Calcutta, they have nobly undertaken to increase the facilities which Loreto House itself offers, not only in the numbers which it accommodates but in the variety and width of its curriculum. The school roll is now considerably in excess of 400, and it provides a carefully considered

technical department, where practical and theoretic domestic work receives attention, and it affords college facilities and residential privileges. To meet this expansion and to open their doors to the greatest number of children, they have now acquired the premises at No. 8, Middleton Row, borrowing the money immediately required on the immediate guarantee of a prominent citizen and on the ultimate security of Calcutta's traditional generosity. For they count upon liquidating the loan with the proceeds of a series of fêtes, which they propose to organize during this cold weather, and I feel sure their confidence will be justified. Their anonymous friend, on whose personal guarantee the advance has been made, is to be congratulated on his public spirit and on his own confidence in the generosity of his fellow-citizens.

It is this sum then of 1½ lakhs of rupees that the Sisterhood have now to liquidate and this is the first of the series of fêtes from the proceeds of which they hope to meet this heavy obligation. I hope that Lady Mookerjee and the other ladies will have been so successful in their efforts as to render the organisation of many further fêtes unnecessary. I have sufficient experience of organising charitable entertainments in England to know how great is the labour and anxiety of those who undertake such work. I have the greatest admiration for the efforts of these ladies and, if, where all have worked so hard, it is not invidious to mention one name, I should like to pay a tribute to the work of Mrs. Mitchell in getting up this fête. I have come here this afternoon to assure them of my sympathy with their anxiety and to lend my support to their

appeal. I am confident that the public of Calcutta will respond. I have not been in Calcutta for four cold winters without learning that no good cause need ask for sympathy and support in vain, and my experience convinces me that the organisers of this fête will not be disappointed in the response which they receive. I am told that many of the girls employed in the business houses of Calcutta have had their training here and the merchants of Calcutta will, I am sure, be only too pleased to have this opportunity of showing their appreciation of the work that the House does. I shall not stand any longer in the way of the main object of this Fête. I now formally declare it open and hope that many will come to enjoy the entertainments it offers and that the fund will reap the utmost benefits from their enjoyment.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Islamia College, Calcutta, on 28th
December 1926.***

GENTLEMEN,

We have come now to the last stage in the realization of a great ideal. That which has been for long the cherished dream of many of those present here to-day is now fulfilled. For 50 years the Moslems of Bengal have foreseen, hoped for, worked for this Islamia College and now at last it stands complete, not merely built but dedicated to the service of God and man. That surely is the meaning of the sacred invocation to which we have just listened with reverence. The architects and builders in stone and wood have done their work, the builders of human intellect and character are now only beginning theirs. In the years to come their task will be to train up for modern life the Moslem youth of this province without divorcing them during the process from that religious atmosphere and culture to which all devout Moslems attach such importance. That task, as I ventured to suggest when laying the foundation-stone two years ago, is one of such transcendent importance that it may well be looked upon as a sacred mission, and it is appropriate that the building in which it is to take place should be inaugurated by a solemn prayer for the blessing of God. The first-year students of the Intermediate course and the first-year students of the B. A.

course have already started work and you have a staff which will be completed next year when all four classes come into existence. The college has been staffed, as far as possible, with Moslems, but the interests of efficiency and economy have prevented this ultimate aim from being completely carried out as yet. In Mr. Harley the college has—as its first Principal—a man whose wide Islamic studies fully qualify him for the headship of the institution and under his leadership the foundation of a fine tradition should be well and truly laid. I regret that in addition to the Principal we could not also have one or two whole-time Englishmen on the staff.

I am glad to learn that the most cordial relations exist between the Moslem and non-Moslem members of the staff. Their task will be to train their students to be good Moslems and good citizens, and to convince them that the one is not inconsistent with the other. If this college succeeds in that object, it will render the greatest possible service to the future political life of the province. The narrow communal partisanship which breeds such enmity and strife as we have witnessed in this city during the last few months is now the only serious obstacle to the attainment of complete nationhood. The more enlightened, the more advanced and the more self-reliant each community can become, the less will it have cause to fear the rivalry or the domination of any other and the elimination of this element of fear which, I hope, the college will help to bring about, will remove the only obstacle to Hindu-Moslem unity.

I have already expressed, when laying the foundation-stone of this college, all my hopes and wishes for its future. I can, therefore, only repeat and emphasize what I then said to the Moslem community. You have realized your dream of an Islamia College in Calcutta. You have not yet created a second Aligarh. That work is only now beginning. If it is ever to be accomplished, it must be by the efforts of the Moslem community itself. I have said that I looked forward to the day when the college would cease to be a Government college, when its management would be transferred to a committee of leading Moslems and when Moslem piety and enthusiasm would provide it with a constant stream of endowments. Already since I expressed this hope two years ago a beginning has been made in the direction of its realization. A scholarship fund has been established with which I am proud to have my name associated. It was started by Nawab Musbaruf Hossain with his generous donation of Rs. 20,000 announced at the time of the laying of the foundation-stone. The Nawab has since supplemented this with a gift of Rs. 1,800 for six years. Further additions to the fund have been received—Rs. 10,000 from the Nizam of Hyderabad, Rs. 10,000 from Mr. Paruk and Rs. 15,000 from Babu Rameswar Nathani of Calcutta. This last is a very encouraging example of Hindu-Moslem unity which must warm the hearts of all true lovers of India. The interest of this fund is to be employed in sending a Moslem to England for training every two years. If further donations are received, it will be possible to send one every year. The scholarship, though

not confined to members of this college, will often, I hope, fall to it, and should prove a valuable help to the advancement of the Moslem community. I should like before I leave India to learn that the Lytton Moslem Scholarship Fund had reached at least the figure of one lakh.

Gentlemen, I know your needs are many and they can only be satisfied gradually. May I mention a few of them and commend them to the generosity of the wealthier members of your community? The first is the library. This is an essential part of the equipment of the college. We have started it with Rs. 20,000, but more will be required to keep it up to the necessary standard. The second need is for scholarships which would assist the poorer students in their struggle for higher education. This need is not met by the fund I have already mentioned which is for a different purpose. Other needs which, I hope, will be supplied in time, are a playing field and improved hostel accommodation.

The college is established but it is not yet equipped in these essential respects. I hope that the Moslem community will make it a matter of pride to keep it up to the highest standard and supply its needs as it grows from infancy to manhood. The Government has made a generous contribution to start the college, but it will not be able to bear the whole burden of its development. It must now take its place among the many educational establishments which have an equal claim upon the resources of Government. It is one of the disadvantages of Government institutions that they attract few donations from outside. People are apt to think that anything

which is given only relieves Government of a burden. This is not the case. It is really a question of the rate of progress which is involved. As the years go by we shall develop the college gradually and whether it is assisted by outside donations or not we shall provide what is necessary to enable the college to fulfil its object. If left to Government alone, the rate of expansion will be slow. But if the whole Moslem community of Bengal will concentrate upon the development of this college, progress will be more rapid and the sooner will the ideal be achieved of realizing a second Aligarh. The site is cramped and hedged in by buildings. If Moslem piety would help to free it by purchasing some of the adjoining land required for its expansion, the future would be secured in a way that is not now possible.

I have already a vision, which, I hope, you share and will help to realize, of what the college may be in 50 years' time. A great block of generously conceived buildings resembling those of Presidency College or the Dacca University, with a library half as big as the present college and science laboratories twice as large. That, gentlemen, is the vision which comes to me when in imagination I leave this platform and place myself in spirit among those whom I am addressing, when I think of the zeal and the piety of the Moslem community, when from my experience I realize the measure of its present handicap in educational matters and the need for highly educated Moslems in all branches of public life, and finally when I remember the unity of purpose and determination of which Moslems are capable whenever the interests of their

religion or their community are at stake. Knowing all these things, and knowing what you could make of this college if you will, I already see not merely the buildings in existence but the vigorous, enlightened, self-reliant generation of men produced by the college, taking their part in the public life of the country and allied with their Hindu compatriots in building their common nation.

Then the vision fades, as I remember that I am not a rich Moslem but only for the time being the head of a Government with a revenue altogether inadequate to meet the large demands that are made upon it, that this is a Government college, and that for many years to come any Government, however it is constituted, will find itself faced with the necessity of providing more money for primary education and consequently will have increasing difficulty in financing higher education generally, to say nothing of a particular college. If, therefore, you wait for Government alone to develop this college, even 50 years will not produce the results I have foreshadowed. This would still be the case even if the Government were an exclusively Muhammadan Government which it is not and can never be. It is convenient in this country to attribute all evil to a thing called the bureaucracy but do not be misled into thinking that constitutional changes alone can alter the fundamental facts of the situation. The more representative the Government may become to the general electorate, the wider that electorate itself may grow, the greater—not the less—will become the difficulty of financing an institution of this kind from public revenues alone. My period of office is now nearly

completed. I am glad that it has fallen to my lot to help in the foundation of this college and to see it successfully launched upon what, I hope, will prove a career of great service not merely to the Moslem community, but to the whole of Bengal. Its future, gentlemen, is in your hands. See to it that the seed here planted to-day shall grow into a great tree and bear fruit for many generations.

As upon the stone which my father laid 50 years ago at Aligarh there has since sprung up a great Moslem University, so upon the foundation of this Islamia College may there rise a new centre of Islamic learning and culture which 50 years hence will be producing eminent scholars, scientists and statesman, destined to bring credit to Bengal, to India and to the faith by which they have been inspired.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Demonstration School in the
David Hare Training College, Bally-
gunge, on 4th January 1927.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The ceremony of opening the new Demonstration School which has brought us together this afternoon represents something more than the mere completion of a school building. It is in fact the inauguration of the complete David Hare Training College scheme. This scheme was initiated 18 years ago, when in 1908 the original David Hare Training College was opened in five rooms of an old building in the heart of the town. There were then 20 students and the original staff was composed of Mr. Griffith and two other English officers. Mr. H. R. James, the Principal of the Presidency College and the acting Director of Public Instruction, wrote in 1908 :

“The David Hare Training College, as it now exists, is a promise and not a fulfilment—an earnest of what is to be rather than what is. The real college is to arise somewhere in the neighbourhood of Bhowanipore and a large practising school is to arise with it.”

Ten years later the Sadler Commission wrote :

“The Government of Bengal have decided to remove the David Hare Training College from its present position and have acquired

for it a site of about six acres in Ballygunge; we should regret the abandonment of this carefully considered plan. The new site proposed has great advantages. It has pleasant surroundings. It is near the country. The college will not be cramped for space. Its students will have facilities for outdoor exercise and for games. The plan includes a large model school for practice; other schools suitable for observation are within easy reach. The number of students admitted to the college will be small in order that their practical work may be exacting and well supervised. For the purpose in view—that of a self-contained training college affiliated to the University but not implicated with other sides of the University's teaching work—the plan seems to us admirably designed."

It has taken 18 years to convert this promise into a fulfilment but the fulfilment has come at last. The Demonstration School which I have come here to open is the "model school" recommended by the Sadler Commission, the "large practising school" promised by Mr. James. It was originally planned by Mr. Griffith—the present Principal—who has had to wait almost the whole period of his service for the consummation of his scheme. I congratulate him on having lived to see his patience rewarded and his ideas fulfilled. When we are reminded by such an experience as his how many years it takes to carry out a scheme which has no enemies, which is powerfully backed

by the highest authorities and which can have nothing but beneficial results, we may perhaps derive some consolation for our disappointment at the slow rate of progress in matters that are more controversial. The war and the financial stringency of the post-war years have been the main causes of the long delay in the fulfilment of this scheme as of so many other useful public objects.

Mr. Bernard Shaw with characteristic cynicism once said "He who can, does; he who cannot, teaches!" The remark contains an element of truth which we can all immediately recognize. The teacher is the one professional man who hitherto has not been required to learn his profession. It is assumed that any man who knows a subject can teach it to others. It is even, I am afraid, too readily admitted that a man can teach what he does not even know. This, I presume, was the view of the Retrenchment Committee when they recommended the abandonment of the scheme of a training college for teachers. The businessmen who formed that Committee did not go so far as to say that a trained teacher was no better than an untrained one, but they expressed the view that a teacher's own education was his chief qualification and they held that in a time of great financial stringency, when expenditure had to be curtailed in all directions, a training college for teachers was a luxury that might quite fittingly be surrendered. Now, such is the perversity of human nature that I really believe it was that recommendation of the Retrenchment Committee more than anything else which finally decided Government to press on with this scheme in spite of our financial difficulties and

bring it to completion without further delay. The ceremony which I have come to perform may be taken as an emphatic declaration by Government that the teaching profession is no longer to be regarded as the last resort of those who are incapacitated for any other profession; that it is rather the most responsible and important of all professions, that those who embrace it require as good a training as those who enter any other profession; and, let me not hesitate to add, that our action involves also the recognition that trained teachers are entitled to adequate salaries.

The school which I am opening to-day will correspond to the hospital wards which are considered an indispensable adjunct to a Medical College. Just as you cannot train medical students without providing them with clinical experience, so you cannot train teachers without a school in which they may practise.

The school which I have come to open possesses the usual class rooms, hall, manual room and playground. Eight classes of 20 boys each can be accommodated. Its site has all the advantages which the Sadler Commission pointed out. The staff has been carefully picked out of 800 applicants and contains nine experienced B. T.'s, a Head Pandit, a Second Pandit, a Head Maulvi, a Drawing Master and a Drill Master. The 60 students of the college will thus be able to receive their training in a model school and here, as Sir Harcourt Butler said in 1911, they will "imbibe the spirit of the place—its well-kept order, economy of time, neatness, discipline and air of business."

In addition to its value as a demonstration school for the training of teachers, this school will also supply a long-felt want in South Calcutta. North Calcutta already has three Government schools. The south town will now possess one, which, I hope, will serve in this area as a model of what a high school may be when properly staffed and administered.

I am very glad that Mr. Griffith is here to-day to see the completion of the scheme which he drew up so many years ago. The college could not have a better Principal. I should also like to pay a tribute to the devoted work of Mr. Chintaharan Chakravarti who officiated as Principal from 1916 to 1926 and administered the college with great success among the unpromising conditions of its old surroundings.

I now declare the Demonstration School open and formally inaugurate the David Hare Training College scheme. I hope it may prove of great benefit to the teaching profession and raise the standard of future education in Bengal.

***His Excellency's Speech at the unveiling
at the Presidency General Hospital
on 7th January 1927 of a Tablet
commemorative of Sir Ronald Ross's
discovery of the cause of Malaria.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Colonel Megaw is quite right in saying that the ceremony which you have asked me to perform to-day is one that gives me unusual pleasure. We are commemorating an event from which every class in the community has already derived benefit and may yet derive even greater benefits in the years to come. We are honouring a man whom every Englishman and every Indian without distinction of creed or party is glad to honour. Seldom indeed has it fallen to my lot in the last five years to find myself the spokesman of such a completely unanimous opinion. There is not a man or woman in the whole of India who would grudge Sir Ronald Ross the highest measure of praise and gratitude which can be expressed in words.

His achievement, I think, is even greater than Colonel Megaw has described it, and I don't think anyone will accuse me of exaggeration, if I say that Sir Ronald Ross's discovery has been the greatest contribution to medical knowledge since the days of Pasteur. So familiar are we now with the connection between malaria and the mosquito that it is difficult for us to realise how startling was the

first announcement of this fact, nor how sceptical was the generation to which it was first made. Yet this knowledge, on which so much depends, we owe not to any accident but entirely to the patient, thorough and successful research of one man—the man whom we have met to honour.

The consequences of this discovery, which seems to us so simple, so obvious, has had, as Colonel Megaw has reminded us, the most far-reaching results. Not only has it revealed the cause of malaria, improved the treatment of the disease, helped towards its prevention and indicated the steps by which it may one day be eradicated, but it has also led to research along similar lines into the causes and treatment of other malignant epidemic diseases. Indeed the whole of that magnificent and valuable institution of research, of which Colonel Megaw is now himself the distinguished Principal, may be truly said to owe its very existence to the work of Sir Ronald Ross.

Reading through the memoirs of Sir Ronald's life, one is struck by his versatility, his high idealism and his perseverance in the face of difficulties and obstruction: and it is such qualities as these that have made him one of the world's greatest benefactors. There is also another side of his personality which deserves to be mentioned. I was once told that the historian Lecky, whose friends would never have suspected him of harbouring military ambitions, once confessed to a friend that the great regret of his life was that his parents had not made him a soldier, and he has

left on record a poem in which this strange regret is half revealed :

“Not every thought can find its words,
 Not all within is known;
 For minds and hearts have many chords
 That never yield their tone.
 Tastes, instincts, feelings, passions, powers,
 Sleep there unfelt, unseen;
 And other lives lie hid in ours.
 The lives that might have been.”

I half suspect from the lines, which Colonel Megaw has quoted and some of which are reproduced upon the gate of commemoration which I shall presently unveil, that Sir Ronald Ross too is conscious of a “life that might have been,” and would perhaps rather be honoured as a poet than as a man of science. If so, this only reveals to us the breadth of his human sympathy and adds to the measure of our appreciation of him. His self-imposed mission was to rid India of the scourge of fever from which it suffered, and he worked incessantly, ungrudgingly, in spite of disappointment and difficulties, which might well have deterred other men from their purpose, until after four years of unremitting toil he succeeded in finding the secret. Not content with disclosing the secret for the benefit of mankind, he completed his task by laying down detailed plans for the control of the disease.

Four years after he made his discovery Sir Ronald Ross had an opportunity of making his first great demonstration of its vast possibilities by freeing

Ismailia of malaria at a time when the evacuation of the town was being seriously contemplated. He therefore showed by their practical application the immense value of the principles which he had established. So comprehensive were the plans he laid down that it was on their basis that all the great successful experiments in freeing the Panama Canal zone and other areas were subsequently carried out. It is nothing short of miraculous that such results should have been obtained by the discovery of one man and that he, almost unaided, should have been able to detect not only the means by which malaria is carried, but also the means by which it can be prevented.

I suppose that no man, however great, ever fails to arouse in some minds a desire to make him appear smaller. I have heard it suggested by such critics that Sir Ronald Ross is not really entitled to all the credit for the results which have followed from his discovery, because, if he had not made it when he did, someone else was sure to have made it before long. Such a criticism does not deserve a moment's consideration; for the same might be said of Pasteur or Lister or Newton or of any of the great men who have enlarged the boundaries of human knowledge. It is sufficient for us that an important discovery has been made, that upon that discovery has been built up a whole new department of medical knowledge and research, that the whole human race is the richer thereby and that the man who made the discovery was Sir Ronald Ross.

Another fact which we are commemorating to-day and which we in Calcutta are proud to

remember is the fact that this momentous discovery was made in this city in a small laboratory a few yards from this spot. That nearly 30 years should have passed without any recognition by Calcutta of Sir Ronald Ross's services to humanity, is a reproach to this city which, I am glad to say, is now at last going to be removed. It is customary to erect monuments and commemorative tablets to mark the sites where men have died or are buried, but so far as I know there are few such monuments to mark the place where knowledge has been born. Yet what could be a happier subject for commemoration than the birth-place of knowledge? We are all proud that Calcutta should have this distinction, but unfortunately other parts of the world have as yet derived more benefit from Sir Ronald Ross's discovery than the province which gave it birth. Panama, Ismailia and West Africa owe their freedom from fever to his work. The Malay Peninsula, he tells me, is making good use of it. Bengal in 30 years has profited but little by it and is still a victim to the ravages of this disease. That is another reproach which after to-day's ceremony I hope we shall do something to remove.

There are two agencies in the province that are concentrating the best available experience upon a war against disease. They are the School of Tropical Medicine and the Co-operative Anti-malarial Societies—the one an official, the other an unofficial organisation. The best memorial we could erect to Sir Ronald Ross, the best use we could make of his discovery for the benefit of Bengal, would be to raise a large endowment fund for the support of these two organisations. The

School of Tropical Medicine is carrying on Sir Ronald Ross's work, is adding every year to our knowledge of the causes of disease and the methods necessary for their prevention. They are the Intelligence Department of the Army of Health. The Co-operative Health Societies are the Field Force, they are carrying the knowledge obtained by the School of Tropical Medicine into the homes of the people and enlisting their co-operation in preventive measures. Funds are urgently needed for the support of each, and I hope that as a result of this meeting a movement will be set on foot to raise a fund, associated with Sir Ronald Ross's name, to develop the work which these organisations are doing and to carry it into every village in Bengal.

Sir Ronald's discovery has been worth many millions of pounds to the human race, apart altogether from the saving of life and the prevention of sickness. By the application of the principles which he laid down we can save many more lives and money for Bengal, we can restore the vitality of the province and enable her to take a more prominent and valuable place in the work of the Empire.

We are pleased and proud to have Sir Ronald once more amongst us—let us show our belated gratitude to him by applying ourselves with all our strength and energy to the eradication of the disease, to the control of which he himself gave so many years of unremitting labour and thought. If this ceremony and the tablet which I am about to unveil serve to inspire others with that enthusiasm and devotion, which he himself spent for the good of mankind, I feel sure that Sir Ronald Ross will feel amply repaid for his presence here this evening.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Bengal Legislative Council on
11th January 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

The Council which is opening to-day its first session is the third Council which has been elected under the Constitution of 1919, and it is perhaps the most important of the three because it meets with the accumulated experience of its two predecessors to guide it and with the knowledge that so far as Bengal is concerned its labours will constitute the latest material upon which the Parliamentary Commission, which must be appointed before it closes, will base its recommendations for the future. I have come in person to open the session in order to wish you all success in your deliberations and to assure you of my desire to assist you to the best of my ability in promoting the welfare of the people of Bengal whom you have been elected to represent and whose interests have occupied my mind now for nearly five years. I can only be associated with you for a period of little more than two months, but that period will cover the whole of your first session and the consideration of the budget by which you will make provision for the various departments of Government during your first year. The time though short is therefore critical and will necessitate the taking of decisions which will not only have a profound effect upon the lifetime of this Council but will largely determine the influence of Bengal upon the future development of the Indian Constitution.

The first decision you will be called upon to take is whether or not you desire to have included in the Executive men to represent you as Ministers and to take charge of those Departments of Government which have been placed by the Constitution under popular control. The revocation of the transfer of subjects which was made by the Secretary of State during the lifetime of the last Council will come to an end on January 21st and it will be for you to decide whether you wish that revocation to continue or whether you wish to resume control of the transferred subjects through the medium of Ministers who will be answerable to you for their administration. It will be for me to interpret such action as you may take and I propose therefore to devote the few remarks I shall make to you to-day to explaining what are the opportunities afforded to you by the Constitution for expressing your wishes on the subject and the way in which I shall interpret the use you may make of them.

At the present time no funds are available for the payment of Ministers as no provision for their salaries was made in this year's budget. In order to give the Council the earliest opportunity of expressing its wishes on this matter a demand for a supplementary grant for the salary of two Ministers will be submitted to you on January 17th. This will enable the Council to indicate whether or not it wants any Ministers to be appointed and, if so, what rate of salary it is prepared to vote for their remuneration. If the demand is rejected, I shall accept that decision as indicating the desire of the Council to see the revocation of transfer continued and I shall inform the Secretary of State

accordingly. If the demand is accepted, I shall interpret this as an indication of the desire of the Council to have a Ministry appointed and I shall thereupon do my best to select such persons as appear to have the confidence of those who recorded such a decision.

Before I deal with the opportunities which the Council will subsequently have of approving or disapproving the selection I may make, let me say one word about the amount of the demand which will be submitted on January 17th. The Council will remember that, during the period from January 1921 to December 1923, there were three Ministers in Bengal of whom two were Hindus and one was a Muhammadan. After the general election of 1923, the composition of the Council was changed and the Ministers, who had been appointed in 1921, no longer appeared to me to represent the majority of the new Council. I accordingly invited the leader of the party, which had secured a majority of the elected seats, to become a Minister, to choose his colleagues and to advise me regarding the filling of the nominated seats. The invitation you remember was declined—courteously declined, and for reasons which I have no doubt were fully weighed—I was obliged therefore to seek for Ministers among the remaining groups. I appointed three, of whom two were Muhammadans and one was a Hindu. This combination appeared to me to be justified by the relative numbers of their Hindu and Muhammadan supporters in the Council. The Hindu Minister was unseated as the result of an election petition and resigned. Before I was able to replace him

by another Hindu the demand for Ministers' salaries was rejected and no other appointment was possible. As the motion for the rejection of salaries was only carried by a majority of one vote and there was considerable doubt whether the issue involved was clearly appreciated by the Council, the two Muhammadan Ministers remained in office temporarily, but it was impossible for me to give them a Hindu colleague in addition. The decision of March 1924 was reaffirmed in the following August, this time by a majority of two votes. The Ministers then resigned and for the remainder of the lifetime of the last Council the transferred departments have been administered by the Governor in Council. Another general election has since been held and the attitude of the present Council towards this question has now to be tested. If the precedent of previous years were to be followed, the appointment of three Ministers would necessitate an unequal distribution of the offices between the Hindu and Muhammadan communities. In view of the regrettable riots which have recently taken place between these two communities and which for the time being have so embittered the relations between them, such a course appears to be undesirable. In the present state of communal feeling in the province I am reluctant to appear to favour either community at the expense of the other in exercising the prerogative of appointing Ministers. I had, therefore, to consider the alternatives of appointing a European as the third Minister, increasing the number of Ministers to four or reducing it to two. Of these alternatives, in the absence of

any indication of the wishes of the Council, I have chosen the last. The demand therefore which will be submitted to you on January 17th will be for a sum which will provide salaries for two Ministers at the maximum rate allowed by the Act and voted by two previous Councils. If the demand is accepted, two Ministers will be appointed, but it will still be open to the Council to indicate its preference for either of the other alternatives I have mentioned. Whether this can best be done by moving the adjournment of the Council or by passing a resolution in the ordinary way, is a matter which you must decide, subject to the approval of the President.

I now turn to the opportunities which the Council will have of expressing its confidence or want of confidence in the Ministers whom I may appoint and the procedure available under the Constitution for this purpose. The main principle which characterizes a system of responsible representative Government is that the Executive should be selected from that group or party which comprises a majority of the Legislature and that it should resign, if and when the majority of the Legislature refuses to support it. This principle was intended by Parliament to operate here so far as the administration of transferred subjects was concerned. A Governor is expected to select Ministers who can obtain the support of a majority of the members of the Legislative Council, but, should he fail to do so, the Council has the remedy in its own hands and can compel the resignation of the Ministers.

The existence of many separate groups, none of which by itself can command a majority in the Council, renders the selection of Ministers who may be acceptable to the Council exceedingly difficult. At present there are many opinions, but there is no reliable evidence of which groups are likely to combine to form a majority; but unless some combination is effected Government on the parliamentary model cannot be established, since only such Ministers as can secure the support of the Council can remain in office.

If the demand for the grant of salaries is carried on January 17th, two Ministers will be appointed to take office after January 21st. When the Council resumes for the consideration of the Budget, an opportunity will be afforded to it of expressing its confidence or want of confidence in the Ministers who will have been appointed. In order that the Council may express its opinion of each Minister individually, the Government will this year show separately the salary of each Minister in the estimate under the heading "General Administration" and any member will have an opportunity of expressing his want of confidence in either of the Ministers whom I have selected by moving a token reduction of one rupee in the salary demanded. If such a motion is carried the Minister will resign. It will, however, be open to the Ministers themselves to decide whether or not they will stand or fall together. At present the tradition of joint Ministerial responsibility has not been established, but the Ministers can elect to establish it if they so desire. If such a motion is carried and the Ministers resign, I shall

select others and a further opportunity will be afforded to the Council of expressing its acceptance or otherwise of them, when the demands for grants for the transferred subjects are reached. If a token reduction of one rupee in the demand for the first grant asked for by the new Minister for the Department of which he is in charge is moved and carried, that will again be interpreted as a vote of no confidence and will be followed by the resignation of the Minister.

Such a motion would be free from ambiguity at the time of a Minister's appointment and before he has formulated any policy, but in subsequent years a similar procedure might be adopted as a means of criticising some detail of his policy without necessarily requiring his resignation.

In this way the Council can retain the power to confirm or reject the individual Ministers whom I may select even after they have passed the grant for their salaries. If, however, the demand for salaries is totally rejected no other Ministers can be appointed and such a decision can only be interpreted as a refusal to work the Constitution at all.

Gentlemen, I have dwelt on this question of procedure at some length as I am anxious that the Council should clearly understand what its powers are and how they should be used. In the exercise of this prerogative my individual preference is not the deciding factor. I have no wish and I have no power, if I had the wish, to appoint Ministers that are unacceptable to the Council, but it will, I hope, be equally obvious that the personal likes or dislikes of individual members can also not be a deciding factor and my task would be greatly

facilitated if before any appointment is made the groups who have a common political policy would elect their own leader to carry it out.

You are in a sense the trustees of the Constitution and your action will to a large extent determine its future developments. Parliament looks to you for a practical demonstration of the working of a representative system of Government in this country and your countrymen will have reason to thank you, if, in addition to drawing attention to the defects of the present Constitution, you can give practical proof of the adaptability to Indian conditions of a system of Government which in theory I believe you all desire to establish.

In a few weeks' time I shall be returning to England and my countrymen will be sure to ask me how far my five years' experience has strengthened or diminished my faith in the applicability to Indian conditions of a system of responsible representative Government, which they, equally with yourselves, desire to see established here as soon and as completely as possible. Of the defects of the present Constitution I have been provided with plenty of evidence. Of the lines on which it can be improved opinion is far less unanimous, and of the success of the experiment already made evidence is more difficult to produce. I trust that in the lifetime of this Council, of which you are members, you will subordinate all personal and communal considerations to the necessity of proving beyond any doubt that Parliamentary Government can be made to bring to the people of India the same advantages which it has brought to the peoples who live in the other parts of the King's Dominions.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of a Ward in the Sagore Dutt Hospital
at Kamarhati on 12th January 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

The story which Colonel Denham White has just told us is one of the most remarkable cases of private munificence that I have ever heard of. Sagore Dutt must indeed have been a noble-minded and generous citizen and he possessed also imagination and practical common sense. He was able to foresee the needs of the future and make a wise provision for them on a generous scale. In 1886, when he died, Kamarhati could only have been a small residential suburb of Calcutta occupied by the garden houses where the wealthy zamindars and businessmen could repair for their week ends. Sagore Dutt had the imagination to foresee that it would before long develop into a busy suburb and that a dispensary would be required for the treatment of the growing population. His benevolent generosity spurred him to translate his ideas into action. He must also have foreseen that the mere establishment of a hospital might prove an embarrassment rather than a boon, owing to the obligation which it would impose upon later generations to provide funds to maintain it. He determined that his gift should be complete and should not involve others in the task of finding money to meet the recurring charges. Therefore not only did he provide this site and the nucleus of the buildings, but he left a sufficient endowment for its expansion and maintenance without the need of any

support from the public. He secured continuity and economy by appointing the Administrator-General as Trustee and by directing that the Civil Surgeon and the Magistrate should be associated in the management of the institution.

I understand that the testator's aims and objects have been fully carried out and that the careful management of the estate has permitted of the gradual expansion of the hospital. Buildings have been added to it from time to time and yet money has always been available to meet the expanding cost of maintenance. Over three and a half lakhs have already been spent on the erection and repairs of buildings. When we add to all this the recurring cost of an institution run on such generous lines and realise that it is all met from the income of the estate, we can form some idea of the vastness of the benefaction and measure thereby the generosity of the testator.

The hospital was established for the relief of the poor and indigent people of the neighbourhood, and the figures show how greatly they have benefited. The average daily attendance in the out-door dispensary during last year was over 100 patients, while the in-door hospital has 64 beds and the average number of beds occupied each day was over 50. Food, clothing, bedding, treatment, are all supplied free.

Now I am to open a new ward which will accommodate an additional 20 beds.

The hospital has the benefit of an excellent staff headed by Dr. Nilratan Adhikari, who has been in charge ever since its establishment and its success

is in no small measure due to his popularity and to the close attention with which he has studied the interests of the hospital. Moreover, it is owing to his skill and reputation that the hospital has obtained a special name for the treatment of eye diseases and cataract operations.

This then is the unique bequest which Sagore Dutt, the Calcutta merchant, left to his fellow-countrymen 40 years ago—a property which is endowed for all time—and when I mention that he also provided for the establishment of a school, which has now reached the high English standard and where education is imparted free of all charge to over 200 children, you will agree with me, I think, that he has earned the undying gratitude of posterity. A sincere desire to relieve suffering, to serve mankind, to help the poor, was the only motive of his generosity. He sought no reward for himself—his gift did not take effect till after his death, he could therefore receive neither recognition nor applause. He merely left his wealth where he thought it would do the most good to posterity. He invested it in the hearts of the poor and their gratitude is the interest it will produce in every generation. It was a noble example which gives us all a higher conception of human nature.

I have much pleasure in opening this new ward and hope it will add still further to the blessings of this hospital.

***His Exoellenoy's Speech at the opening of
the Birkmyre Hostel, Calcutta, on 14th
January 1927.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We have met to witness the realization of another of Dr. Graham's ideals—the passing, as it were, of another milestone in the progress of his great work. Dr. Graham's friends are to be found all over the world and they will all rejoice to learn of the completion of this Hostel. Those of them who live in Calcutta have met here to congratulate him on the latest addition to the monument of his life's work and to thank the man who has made it possible.

Sir Archy Birkmyre has long ago established himself in the hearts of the people of Bengal by his generous support of all good causes, but perhaps there is no cause which he has made more his own than that of the Kalimpong Homes. Having once become interested in those Homes and convinced of the invaluable work which they were doing, he has never failed them in any hour of need and year after year has helped them to attain to the full realization of their purpose.

It has long been the aim of Dr. Graham to have a hostel in Calcutta, where the boys who leave Kalimpong for work in this city could find a home. In the past the Wellington Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association has generously given a large number of them places in their hostel in Corporation Street, but Dr. Graham felt, and I think

rightly felt, that the increasing number of boys in Calcutta called for a separate organization, where the boys could carry on the traditions they had inherited in the hills and could continue to enjoy that corporate existence which had been theirs in Kalimpong. Seven years ago an appeal was made for funds to enable this scheme to be executed, but the high prices of property made it impossible to secure a building near the business part of the city and the authorities had to be content with a house in Ballygunge. This, however, proved unsuitable, and as soon as the need was made known to him, Sir Archy Birkmyre once again came to the rescue.

• Many of you, no doubt, were present when Sir John Kerr laid the foundation-stone of this building 18 months ago, and you will remember his telling you how Sir Archy had not only selected and acquired this site and provided the funds for the building, but that he had taken upon himself the entire responsibility for the design, building, and equipment of the hostel. He has thus contributed not only money, but brains and time and interest to the satisfaction of what he was convinced was a real need of the Homes. This will be the Agency House for the Homes in Calcutta, where the old boys will find a home at the outset of their career, where they will meet in friendly intercourse and renew acquaintances and where the various activities of the Homes in Calcutta will be co-ordinated. Sir Archy could not have selected a site better suited to the objects which he and Dr. Graham had in view. It is near the business centre of the city where the boys will work and its environment is ideal; the building itself has been planned on a most practical

and liberal scale and I should like to congratulate Mr. Shrosbree and the others associated with him on having carried out the donor's wishes so admirably. I feel no doubt that there will be a constant supply of boys eager to fill the 40 places, for which accommodation has been provided, and that the Hostel is assured of success from the outset. As fresh boys come down from Kalimpong they will find a congenial centre in which they can accustom themselves to the new and difficult life of Calcutta before passing on to their various occupations. The Hostel is fortunate in having secured the services of Miss Philip as Matron, as she will be able to apply here the experience she gained in the Fraser Hostel at Kalimpong; and I feel sure that both the old boys and the two wardens who will live here will benefit by their mutual association.

The true gift must contain some characteristic of the giver. May we not say that Sir Archy's biography is written in his gifts to Kalimpong? By the provision of this hostel he has completed the great service he has already rendered to the Homes by the gift of the Ronaldshay Park at Kalimpong. Those of you who have seen it can realize how great an asset to the Homes is the magnificent Ronaldshay Park and what a tremendous labour was involved in cutting those playing fields out of the steep hillside; that park indicates the importance which Sir Archy attaches to the provision of healthy recreation for the boys and in this his most recent gift he has shown that he realizes equally the value of giving those boys the opportunity of opening their career in a healthy environment.

The bestowing and receiving of benefits is a delicate matter. A gift is always embarrassing when it creates an obligation, when it is made in expectation of some return, when it turns the recipient into a debtor. There is only one thing to which we can be in debt without self-reproach and that is love. Dr. Graham, I think, will agree that in everything which he receives from Sir Archy this condition is fulfilled. He is one of those from whom the Homes have learnt to expect fairy tokens. They will never cease to expect them. They will never be ashamed to accept them. Sir Archy too, I think, will admit that to give to Dr. Graham is the best way of giving to oneself and to have a share in his great work is one of the greatest privileges of life. Therefore, though formal thanks will be given and received, they can add nothing to the perfect relationship, which exists and which will always be embodied in this building, between the Kalimpong Homes and their true friend Sir Archy Birkmyre. I now declare the Birkmyre Hostel open and wish it all success.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening of
the Co-operative Bank Building at
Jlaganj on 18th January 1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I am, as you know, a firm believer in the value of the co-operative movement and I am very glad, therefore, of an opportunity of being associated with a ceremony of this kind, which provides the local banks with a headquarters of their own and which is an indication of their efficient management in the past.

I am glad to hear that the Lalbagh Central Co-operative Bank has been making such sound progress and the large deposits which it has attracted not only from this area but from outside are a sufficient guarantee of the confidence which the public have in its stability. The Azimganj Methars' Bank and the Iltoore Sonthal Co-operative Society, which are affiliated to it, are gratifying departures which have brought relief and encouraged thrift amongst classes, who particularly need the benefits of the movement. Perhaps you will now be able to turn your attention to other forms of co-operation besides that of credit.

I understand you have recently prepared a scheme for sinking tube wells, the cost of which will be borne by contributions from the Central Bank and from the rural societies: this is an admirable purpose to which your annual profits can be most usefully put and I hope the scheme will prove practicable. Another direction in which you

might consider extending the scope of the movement is the formation of a Silk Union, whereby you could restore some at least of the prosperity of that industry, for which Murshidabad was so well known. Such a union has been formed in the neighbouring district of Malda with the support of some of the prominent landlords, and you might well follow their example. Rai Surendra Narain Sinha Bahadur is to be congratulated on the interest which he has shown in the progress of the movement not only by his services as Honorary Secretary but also by the free gift of the land on which these buildings stand.

Well, gentlemen, I will not say more, but I hope the two banks will continue to prosper in this new building which I have much pleasure in formally declaring open.

***His Excellency's Speech at the laying of
the foundation-stone of the extension
of the Missionary Hospital for Women
at Jlaganj on 18th January 1927.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have already had occasion to express my appreciation of the missionary work which I have seen in this province during the last five years. I have found it in all parts of the province—in the hills, in the plains, in large cities and in small villages. It is carried out by men and women of all denominations. I have found amongst them no rivalry in the pursuit of converts, only a noble emulation to display the Christian virtues in the service of mankind. The sick are tended, the children are taught and a fine example of devoted service is set before us by the men and women of these missionary societies. What has chiefly struck me when visiting their schools and hospitals, is the personal note which is always present in them, the atmosphere of human sympathy which pervades them and distinguishes them at once from purely official institutions. It is on this account even more than because they are relieving Government of responsibilities which would otherwise fall upon them, that I am grateful for the work of these missionary societies. Their schools and hospitals are efficient but they are something much more than that—they are inspired. This is felt by those who attend them and the devotion, care and sympathy shown by the doctors, nurses or teachers is reflected in the popularity of their

schools and hospitals among the people of the localities in which they are situated. Dr. Stursberg has told us the history of the hospital and of the steady increase in the number of its patients which has made this expansion necessary. This is itself testimony to the valuable work which you are doing. The scheme which you have prepared to enable you to cope with the growing demand is estimated to cost nearly one and a half lakhs of rupees, but you have very wisely decided not to wait till you have the full amount before embarking upon it but to make a start with the new ward which is an integral part of the scheme. To this, as Dr. Stursberg has told you, Government have contributed Rs. 65,000 and I think this should show that we are convinced of the excellent work that is being done among the people of this district. The figures which he has read out to us testify to the great popularity of this institution and to the confidence which the people have in the skill and care of the staff. I am gratified to hear that it has received support from so many classes and I hope that the funds will be forthcoming to complete the whole scheme. Donors may be assured that the money so given will be well spent and they could hardly find a worthier object for their charity. I had occasion last week to open a new ward for a hospital which had been established and permanently endowed by the generosity of one man. Such generosity is not to be found everywhere, but it should act as a stimulus to others to do what they can. The ladies here have given their lives to this work, the least that the neighbourhood can do in return is to

provide them with adequate buildings. Apart from the direct result of attending to the ailments of the women, the hospital does most valuable work in teaching nursing and in inculcating through the mothers and sisters the elementary principles of sanitation and hygiene, and I hope that the result of this influence will be seen more clearly in succeeding generations.

Lady Lytton is grateful for the reference which has been made to her interest in all matters relating to the health of the people and she is particularly glad to hear of the efforts you are making to train nurses and to make their condition of training as comfortable as possible.

On behalf of Government I thank the Mission for the admirable work they have been doing and I hope it will not be long before the whole scheme, which they have in mind, can be brought to completion.

I have much pleasure in laying the foundation-stone of this extension and trust that upon it will rise not only the building which is in immediate contemplation but the whole edifice of which it forms a part.

***His Excellency's Speech at the Conference
in connection with the work of the
British Social Hygiene Council on 27th
January 1927.***

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The Conference which you have been invited to attend here to-day affords an illustration of two characteristic features of modern social life. The first is the increasing attention which is being paid in all countries to the problem of public health and the second is the realization that public health is a problem which requires the co-operation, not merely of all the individuals that compose one particular community, but of all the communities that compose the civilized world. In other words, public health is now recognized to be an international problem. The political principal once defined by Sam Weller as "Each for himself and God for us all, as the donkey said when he danced among the chickens" is now obsolete. A man's health and habits are no longer a matter of mere individual concern, if the health of others are affected thereby; individual liberty cannot be claimed, if it endangers the well-being of others. Even nations and States cannot claim to be a law unto themselves if their negligence is impeding the progress of the world towards a higher standard of health and happiness. All civilized States to-day are answerable to the public opinion of the whole world and are expected to assist in the general movement towards the improvement of the material conditions of life.

In England, there is a society known as the British Social Hygiene Council, which has made a special study of one particular menace to public health, namely, venereal disease, and the visitors, whom you have been invited to meet, are delegates from that body. Mrs. Neville Rolfe is its Secretary-General and Dr. David Lees is one of the greatest authorities in England on this subject. They have come here in recognition of that fact to which I have alluded, namely, the interdependence of all nations in matters of public health, with two objects, to help themselves and to help us. The disease, which they have devoted their lives to studying, is to be found alas ! in all parts of the world. It is one of the scourges of the entire human race. The object of the Social Hygiene Council is to mitigate it as far as possible and if their knowledge is to be complete they must study its incidence and its treatment in as many countries as possible. The first object of their delegates, then, is to learn from us all that we can tell them about the conditions in Bengal. In return for that information, which will be of value to them in their beneficent work, they are prepared to place at our service the experience they have themselves accumulated and to help us to improve our own measures for combating this disease. They have started work on the very day of their arrival. I hope I may extend to them, ladies and gentlemen, on your behalf as well as on behalf of the much larger public which you represent, a most cordial welcome and assure them of our anxiety to co-operate with them to the fullest possible extent during the three weeks they will spend, in Calcutta.

We have tried to make this preliminary conference as representative as possible; invitations have been extended to those individuals or bodies, which have already shown their interest in the problem or which have the organization or facilities for helping in the campaign. If anyone who is interested in the problem has been omitted, I can only assure him that the omission was unintentional and that the small committee, which has been appointed to make detailed arrangements, will be glad to have his or her assistance. As you will see, our accommodation here is limited and we were unable to invite as many as we should have liked.

Let me say one word about this disease and about the existing facilities for its treatment in Bengal. From the point of view of its influence upon the race it is, perhaps, the most serious of all diseases, because it either causes sterility, which is race suicide, or leads to the production of children who are maimed from birth, and in all nature I think there is nothing so pitiable as the child who is born into the world a physical wreck. It is also one of the most difficult diseases to combat because, although curable, its nature involves a moral stigma which impedes its diagnosis and renders difficult any public discussion of its causes or treatment. Until quite recently the diagnosis of leprosy was hampered in the same way, as those who suffered from the disease would conceal it as long as possible with disastrous consequences both to themselves and to others. Only now is it beginning to be understood that the early stages of that disease, when it is most easily curable, are

also the stages when it is most contagious. It is to be hoped that, thanks to the work of such bodies as the Social Hygiene Council in all countries, the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease may become easier with infinite advantage to mankind.

So far as facilities for its treatment in Bengal are concerned, I fear we have little cause to be satisfied. In 1923, 21·8 per thousand of the population in Calcutta resorted to the hospitals for treatment and this represents 5·6 of the total cases of all kinds treated in those hospitals; and this does not take into account the large number of cases which are treated privately.

At the Presidency General Hospital there are 30 beds reserved for male European cases and at the Voluntary Venereal Hospital in Alipore there are 78 beds for Indian female cases. This is the only accommodation reserved for these cases in the Calcutta Hospitals. Other hospitals, which have in-patient accommodation, admit these cases as ordinary patients and there is, perhaps naturally, a certain reluctance to do so. Normally they are treated as out-patients, but there are no special arrangements for them and they are usually seen with the surgical or gynaecological patients. The position, therefore, is very unsatisfactory and something must be done to improve it.

I will leave to the experts who have come to visit us to tell you what are the most useful steps to be taken for the treatment of this disease, but I am sure they will agree that no measures will be of much avail unless they are accompanied by an increased knowledge and a keener interest on the part of the general public.

Individuals can do much in this direction and specially medical practitioners who penetrate into the homes,—through them the educated public would be enlightened and the spread of knowledge downward to the illiterate classes would be merely a question of time. I see great hope for this in the increasing education of women and the growing number of Indian women doctors. Health officers, medical students and social workers can all contribute to the spread of enlightenment on the subject and the greater importance which is now being attached to the inclusion of social hygiene in the schools and colleges leads one to hope that opinion in the next generation at any rate will be favourable to the undertaking of the most vigorous steps to keep the scourge within reasonable and manageable bounds. The various societies and organizations which have been established for the improvement of the general welfare of the people will find here ample scope for their activities, but it will be desirable to see that they do not overlap and that their efforts are co-ordinated to the best advantage. How exactly this can be done, I feel sure that the experience of Dr. Lees and Mrs. Neville Rolfe will be invaluable in advising us. I hope, therefore, that these bodies will take advantage of their presence in Calcutta and devise and concert measures for the campaign against this pressing evil.

I feel sure that Colonel Harnett and the members of his Committee, who have already prepared the ground so carefully for the delegates' visit, will welcome any suggestions and offers of help.

Meanwhile, it will, perhaps, help those who are interested in the subject and who desire to communicate with the delegates, if I tell you that Dr. Lees and Mrs. Neville Rolfe have divided their duties between them, so that the former will visit the various hospitals and deliver a course of post-graduate lectures to doctors, while Mrs. Rolfe will devote herself to the educational aspect of the problem and will lecture to teachers, both male and female; both of them have very kindly undertaken to give addresses to lay audiences.

In the name of this Conference I wish to welcome Mrs. Neville Rolfe and Dr. Lees and to thank them for the interest they are taking in the welfare of this part of the Empire: I hope that the results of their visit will be to stimulate public opinion and so react to the permanent benefit of Calcutta and Bengal.

His Excellency's Speech at the Annual Meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bengal on 7th February 1927.

DR. CHRISTIE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I am afraid that all my speeches from now onwards until I finally disappear from among you must be variations of the one note of farewell. This is the fourth occasion on which you have honoured me with an invitation to your annual meeting and it is also the last time that I shall have this privilege. This is not my final leave taking with the members of your Society as you have kindly invited me to attend an "At Home" on an afternoon in March. But there will be no speeches on that occasion and this must, therefore, be my farewell speech to you. I fear I am becoming like an actor who continues to appear on the stage after announcing his retirement until his friends begin to wonder when they will really see the last of him. I might almost borrow the words of Charles II. to whom the editor of an influential Calcutta newspaper recently compared me, and say "I am sorry gentlemen, that I am so unconscionable a long time a'dying."

My first object must be to thank you for the honour you have done me in electing me an honorary fellow. This has given me great pleasure and enables me to feel that even after I have returned to England there will be one little root which will still bind me to Bengal. Your fellows are all men of such learning and distinction that

I feel it a proud privilege to be included among their number.

Mr. Tipper has spoken very kindly of my sympathy with, and personal interest in, the work of this Society. I can assure you that I have gained more than I have given by my association with it. Here I have encountered patient study and true scholarship, learning pursued for its own sake and an honourable rivalry in giving rather than getting. The atmosphere of this learned Society is a pleasant change from that in which I have had to work. It has been a privilege to me to make the acquaintance of your scholars and I have counted your annual meetings as one of my yearly pleasures.

Mr. Tipper has referred with satisfaction to the fact that the Society created two records in point of numbers in the years when he was its General Secretary and its President, respectively. May I also express satisfaction at a similar fact which like Mr. Tipper I mention as no more than a coincidence, though a happy one. When I addressed the Society for the first time its membership was the lowest on record for 20 years; now that I am addressing it for the last time the membership has reached its highest point. This is gratifying evidence of the growing interest taken by the public in the Society's work. At the same time I share Mr. Tipper's view that numbers in themselves are not an unfailing index of the prosperity of a Society. As he says, the need is for members who will remain members and identify themselves permanently with the interests and activities of the Society. But quite apart from numbers there is evidence of progress and vitality. When we

consider the output of work during the past year, the completion of the catalogues and price lists of the Bibliotheca Indica, the new books acquired, the progress made with the catalogue of Sanskrit manuscripts and with the preparation of the Arabic and Persian manuscripts as well as the general arrangement and classification of the Society's treasures, I think you have good reason to be satisfied with your achievements. All this proves that the vitality of the Society is still strong and instinct with the ideals with which its illustrious founder established it. The President has again referred to the whole-hearted devotion of the General Secretary, Mr. van Manen, to whose initiative, scholarship and untiring energy the Society owes so much, I desire to associate myself with his tribute. I know how much the present prosperity of the Society is due to Mr. van Manen, but I feel sure he will agree with me that all his efforts would be in vain without the wise direction and enthusiastic inspiration of the President and Council, the whole-hearted support of the general body of members and the loyal co-operation of the staff.

The President has taken as the subject of his address this year the question of the Library, which as he rightly says should be one of its most valuable assets. He has explained to us the various problems with which a librarian has to deal and it must be obvious to every one that apart from the necessity of adding to its books and keeping it up to date, the cost of maintaining a lending library, such as this, liable as it is to the ravages of climate and insects, must be very considerable.

The fund, therefore, which has been started by Dr. Hora is of the utmost value, and I should like to see enough money raised in response to the appeal to defray the cost of maintaining the existing library for all time, leaving it to posterity to do the same by the acquisitions which they make. I put forward last year a similar suggestion with reference to the Society as a whole—namely, that each year's additions should be fully endowed. I have lately seen one or two conspicuous examples of this in other spheres and I do not see why it should not be possible here. Generous patrons of education have often been glad to endow a school. Libraries are the schools of grown-up men, and have an equal claim on such generosity. I trust that your Society may find its *Mæcenas*,—an enlightened, imaginative and generous patron, who by endowing your library will earn for himself the praise of his own generation and the gratitude of posterity.

Ladies and gentlemen, I was tempted by the antiquity of this Society to recall in my first address the emotions of Napoleon in the presence of the pyramids, and to-day in speaking to you for the last time I am impelled to return to the same thought. I do indeed feel proud to think that I have been made an honorary fellow of a Society which is as old as the United States of America, which was established before the French revolution, which has seen the downfall of many ancient dynasties and the birth of many new nations, which includes among its members past and present the best scholars of their age, and embodied in whose books is to be found the best intellectual thought

for every country in the world. Throughout its long history, undisturbed by political crisis and international upheavals, this Society has steadily pursued its task of accumulating and publishing to the world knowledge of all that is best and deepest and greatest in India, thus making India known and honoured all over the world, and laying the foundations of a solid understanding and mutual respect between the East and the West.

To know an individual you must be able to see below the surface of his mere external appearance, you must know and understand the thoughts of his heart. So too with a nation. Those who judge by external evidence alone will be misled. To know India you must know something of her soul, and material for its study is to be found here.

In one of my farewell speeches recently I spoke of some disappointment that I had experienced in the political sphere during my term of office. I should be sorry if I were to convey the impression to any one by what I then said that disillusionment and disappointment were all that I had found in India. That is far from being the case. Perhaps it is those who come to India with the belief that they have something to teach who are most likely to be dissatisfied with the response they receive, but those who come to learn will, I am confident, not be disappointed. I am not ashamed to confess that it is only in those matters where I thought my knowledge was greatest and where I believed I had something to contribute that I have found disillusionment. The India that I did not know and of which I have come to know a little during the last five years has given me rich and unexpected

treasures of experience that I shall value all my life. I have found the things which are India's own to be so much greater than those she is seeking to copy from others. That which is indigenous and genuine and original has compelled my admiration whenever and wherever I have met it. It is only the second-hand imitations of the products and thoughts of my own country which fail to impress me when they are offered to me as Indian goods. How little should we value the opinion of a man who came to India and complained of her roads but said nothing of her rivers, who criticized the monotony of her scenery and had never seen the Himalayas, who judged of her architecture by the Victoria Memorial, or her literature by the daily press! Even so, he is an unreliable interpreter of the thought of India who can only hear her voice in the resolutions of Congress.

Ladies and gentlemen, for the last week I have been living in Camp and have had many opportunities of studying the ways and habits of elephants and I could not help feeling as I watched these glorious animals that here was an embodiment of the civilization of India. Their antiquity, their calm dignity, their deliberation, their immense reserve of strength, their complete self-confidence and their superb humility, are all qualities that might well be held up as ideals of character by those who are responsible for the training of youth. The country that has produced and tamed the elephant has surely as much to be proud of as a country that has produced the steam engine, and a people that had acquired the qualities of the elephant would have no cause to fear or hate any other people in the world.

You may think, perhaps, that I have wandered far from the Asiatic Society of Bengal, but believe me that I have derived during the last five years from my intercourse with your Society the same thoughts, the same pleasure, the same happy memories, the same inspiration as I derived from the great beasts that bore me so safely and skilfully through the jungle. If an elephant could speak I am sure it would speak in Sanskrit. Its indifference to the fussiness of all lesser creatures and the willing service which it renders to the ignorant but kindly *Mahout* who sits upon its neck and whom at any moment it could trample into dust, seemed to me a symbol of the dignity of this Society and of the service which its scholars willingly render to the public. Pandits and elephants, then, are things which are associated in my mind, they alike arouse my deepest respect and I shall ever be grateful to the country that has made me acquainted with them both.

In taking my leave of you I must again thank you for the hospitality you have shown me during the years that I have lived in Calcutta and for the honour you have conferred upon me by admitting me to your fellowship. I hope the Society will long continue its valuable work and I wish it many years of continued prosperity.

***His Excellency's Speech at the opening
of the Kishori Lal Jatia wing of the
Leper Asylum, Bankura, on 9th February
1927.***

GENTLEMEN,

I remember 'visiting the Leper Asylum when I came to Bankura in 1924. I had rather dreaded the visit fearing that it might be a depressing experience, but I was agreeably surprised to find it so open, so free, so cheerful in appearance and it was on that occasion, I think, that I learnt for the first time of the wonderful change that has been made in the treatment of leprosy owing to the work of Sir Leonard Rogers. I had always regarded a leper colony or asylum as a sort of living grave in which the unfortunate inmates were severely segregated and doomed slowly to rot to death without hope of cure, objects of loathing and pity to the rest of the world. But it was here at Bankura under the guidance of Mr. Sergeant that I learnt that the inscription which Dante placed over the gateway of his Inferno "All hope abandon ye who enter here" was no longer an appropriate motto for a Leper Asylum, that on the contrary the inscription might well read "Have every hope all ye who enter here." Subsequently in the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta I learnt more of this new message of hope which science had brought to a class of people who have always been regarded as the most grievously afflicted. I shall never forget my first visit to Dr. Muir's department

at the School of Tropical Medicine. He was engaged when I arrived talking to an Indian who had brought his little girl for examination and advice. She had a sore upon her wrist and Dr. Muir explained to me afterwards that this was a clear case of incipient leprosy, but that as it had been diagnosed at an early stage it could be completely cured without much difficulty. When I paid him another visit last year I recalled this case and asked him about it. He told me that the little girl whom I had seen was already completely cured. That single dramatic experience has done more than any lectures or pamphlets could have done to convince me of the wonderful progress which science has made in recent years. The advance of medical knowledge has completely altered the general attitude towards the scourge; for it has discovered methods of treatment, which if given at a sufficiently early stage, cause the disappearance of all signs of the disease in the patient and might lead to the complete eradication of the disease from society, if only adequate arrangements were available for dealing with everyone who had contracted it. As with everything else in nature, knowledge has dispelled a great many erroneous beliefs on the subject of leprosy and the horror and despair with which it was previously regarded has now given place to a new and more helpful kind of sympathy with the unfortunate victims in their distress. It now ranks with malaria, tuberculosis and other diseases which are cruel no doubt in their effect, but both curable and eradicable if only adequate provision is made in time. You will remember the stirring appeal

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that Lord Reading made two years ago to India for funds to enable a vigorous and comprehensive campaign to be launched against leprosy. He pointed out that that campaign must concentrate on three aspects, namely, intensive research work, the training of doctors and propaganda in addition to the provision of adequate arrangements for treating the patients. I regret to say that the response to that appeal in Bengal was sadly disappointing and it was found impossible to devote any of the income to the establishment or expansion of fresh treatment centres and homes.

This unfortunate apathy on the part of the general public must make us all the more grateful to this Mission to Lepers for the contribution which they have made to the solution of the problem in this Presidency.

Worthy objects always produce philanthropic and generous persons ready to help them and in this case, a generous lady, who I believe had never been in India, was so touched by the neglect of the unfortunate lepers that she built the nucleus of these homes 26 years ago. Her example was followed by others, so that the Homes have grown to their present dimensions and there is now accommodation for 160 lepers. Here the unfortunate victims receive kind and sympathetic treatment and everything possible is done to ameliorate their lot, and an earnest endeavour is made to save subsequent generations by segregating the untainted children from their parents.

The late Babu Kishori Lal Jatia expressed a wish that Rs. 25,000 of his estate should be given to the

Mission to Lepers and his son Babu Gajanand has generously carried out those wishes and shown his personal interest in the object to which the amount has been devoted. The liberality of his family is proverbial and he has lived up to its traditions. This donation will enable the Mission to add accommodation for 36 lepers and a resident doctor, besides a dispensary, craft school and other amenities and will greatly increase the scope of the Mission.

I congratulate the Home on having secured so generous a friend and I declare the Kishori Lal Jatia wing open.

His Excellency's Address to Rai Jogendra Nath Singh Deo Bahadur at Bankura, on 10th February 1927.

RAI JOGENDRA NATH SINGH DEO BAHADUR,

You are the descendant of the ancient Vishnupur Raj family which held sway over Mallabhum 600 years or more ago, and you still dwell in the country where they were once supreme. You have shown yourself a public-spirited and enlightened zamindar; you maintain a High English School in your village and you have contributed liberally to other public purposes. You are an Honorary Magistrate of the Vishnupur Bench and have shown yourself a model zamindar and have taken a keen interest in agricultural matters in particular.

Your public spirit has been recognized on three occasions by the grant of Certificates of Honours and I am glad to be the means of conveying to you this further appreciation of your services.

His Excellency's Speech at the Sir Koilash Chandra Bose Memorial Meeting in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on 18th February 1927.

MR. SHERIFF, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

We are met here to-day to do honour to the memory of one whose death has robbed Calcutta of one of her most distinguished and public-spirited citizens. A Bengali of the Bengalis, Sir Koilash Chandra Bose devoted his whole life to improving the conditions of his country. Over and over again during the last five years I have found him taking a leading part in the functions connected with hospitals, education or public welfare which I have been invited to attend. His services to his own profession were great. Both in medicine and surgery, he won a wide reputation. His contributions to medical journals and to literary and scientific societies made his name known beyond the limits of India and he was accepted as a recognized authority on various branches of medical science. Many men would have been content with this direct contribution to the public good, but Sir Koilash, pre-eminent in his own profession, was not willing to rest satisfied with his own achievements. He was indefatigable in his efforts to increase the sum of human knowledge by research and with this object he became instrumental in securing the establishment of the School of Tropical Medicine. In this splendid institution, where his portrait as one of the founders now hangs, Englishmen and

Indians work daily in the closest co-operation investigating the causes of disease and the means by which they can be cured.

In addition to his efforts to increase knowledge, Sir Koilash was equally energetic in helping to spread as widely as possible such knowledge as already existed. He was therefore to be found in support of every institution which aimed at this object. He helped to establish and to administer hospitals and medical schools staffed by his own countrymen, and in both he required the same high standards of efficiency which he had always maintained himself. With the same object, he interested himself actively, as its President, in the Central Anti-malarial Co-operative Society which is helping to spread knowledge of hygiene and sanitation among the villages of Bengal.

A distinguished alumnus of the Medical College, he was inspired throughout by a wonderful *esprit de corps* and he never forgot what he owed to that college. A man of self-effacing modesty, robust common sense and outspoken candour, he became a household name among all communities for generosity and kindly sympathy, and the wide influence, which his character won for him, was of immense advantage to all the good causes in which he interested himself. And indeed there were few good causes—especially those which aimed at improving the public health—with which he was not associated. Whatever was the crying need of the moment, it was certain that Sir Koilash would use his best efforts to secure its satisfaction. During the war he was one of the most indefatigable workers in the campaign on behalf of the various

War Loans and War Charities and by his influence and untiring labour he raised lakhs of rupees for these purposes. I have already referred to his efforts on behalf of the Tropical School. He worked equally zealously for the endowment of beds or for the equipment of hospitals, for the provision of pilgrim's rest houses, the supply of pure water, bathing ghats, leper homes and other aspects of public health. For all of these he secured the generous support of his more wealthy friends.

The value of his services to humanity has been recognized by the honours he received from time to time from His Majesty and the Viceroy—the title of Rai Bahadur, a *Kaisar-i-Hind* Gold Medal, a Companionship of the Order of the Indian Empire, an Officership of the Order of the British Empire and a Knighthood. But the reward which he himself would most have valued is the affection with which his memory is enshrined in the hearts of thousands whose lives he helped to brighten. I remember visiting the Marwari Hospital, of which Sir Koilash was the presiding genius, and I was delighted to see the wonderful respect and affection with which he was received on all hands. The last public function he attended was when, with characteristic courage and public spirit, he rose from a bed of sickness to welcome me when I laid the foundation stone a few weeks ago of an extension to the Calcutta Medical Institute.

I have lost a personal friend and knowing him I can understand how it was that the magnetism of his personality gave him such great influence. I see that one of the resolutions contemplates the provision of a memorial to this great Bengali.

I would like to make a suggestion for the consideration of the Committee which will be appointed later that the best monument to the memory of Sir Koilash would be the opening of a fund to endow the School of Tropical Medicine, which is one of the most living institutions in Calcutta and is making such valuable contributions to the advance of human knowledge and the eradication of disease. I can think of no better way of perpetuating the great humanitarian work which Sir Koilash helped to initiate.

His Excellency's Address at the Calcutta University Convocation on 19th February 1927.

MR. VICE-CHANCELLOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

For the fifth and last time I address you in Convocation. If, as Aristotle tells us, it is difficult to say a second time what one has in essence said before, how can I hope to speak in this Hall for a fifth time without wearying you by repetition or traversing familiar ground? I am encouraged, however, by the knowledge that though the scene is the same as that in which I first spoke in 1923 my audience is a different one. The present Vice-Chancellor is the fourth, with whom I have been privileged to work, and though there are some professors and heads of colleges who have been present at the last four convocations the bulk of my audience—the students—come fresh to the scene every year. And since it is for them rather than for their teachers and professors that this ceremony is held I may without any apology repeat to this year's recipients of degrees the words of encouragement that I have addressed to their predecessors.

In the first place, Ladies and Gentlemen, let me congratulate you on having successfully passed the examination which has enabled you to receive at the hands of the Vice-Chancellor the certificates which testify to your academic success. Four or six years ago you passed through the entrance gate into the University. To-day you are passing through another gate which is at once the gate of

exit from the University and the gate of entrance into life. I wish you all happiness and prosperity in the wider world that lies before you. Tests and competitions, of one kind or another will await you even there for, as Browning has reminded us, "All to the very end is trial in life." So you will find, as doubtless some of you have found already, that life is one long series of examinations different from those to which you have been accustomed and testing other qualities than those which can be made the subject of paper examinations. I hope that in all these you may meet with the same success which you have achieved so far.

When I recall my own school and college days I am ashamed to confess that very few of the words of advice that were addressed to me by older men of wisdom and experience have remained in my memory. But there was one sermon spoken from the pulpit in my college chapel which set my imagination on fire as I listened to it and which I shall never forget. The preacher on that occasion reminded us of the impressive pageant of Empire which we had recently witnessed in London on the occasion of Queen Victoria's second Jubilee. He described in eloquent terms the representative character of that pageant, he enumerated the many lands, races and peoples who composed the dominions of the great Queen and who had sent their most distinguished men to do her honour; he spoke of the vast responsibilities which the administration of such an Empire entailed, of the qualities of statesmanship required to maintain harmony and unity among its component parts. "And where," he asked in conclusion, "are we to look for the men

who will carry on this work, shoulder these responsibilities and maintain unimpaired the great traditions of the past?" Then he thrilled us all with these words "If they are to be found anywhere they must be found here. They are among those whom I see before me."

So as I gaze upon this gathering of young men and women who are standing upon the threshold of life, I feel that here, if anywhere, are to be found those of whom India will have need in the years to come. What, then, can I say to you in order to prepare you for this high destiny? There was an old Philosopher once who, when asked by his friends on his death-bed if he had anything to regret, replied—"I have only one regret, that in my life I did not praise men more."

I must confess that I have never derived much benefit from those preachers who addressed their congregations as the inheritors of every sin and doomed to perdition, unless they could be saved by a special measure of divine mercy, but I have been much helped and encouraged by those who honoured me with their good opinion. It is as one who believes in you, who expects much of you, that I speak. Emerson says that it is only a friend who can make us be what we can—with a friend "we are easily great, there is a sublime attraction in him to whatever virtue is in us."

It is as a friend then in this sense, as "one who pays you the compliment of expecting from you all the virtues," that I would address you to-day, and my only message to you is to remind you of the great possibilities which lie before you, the great

things which it is in your power to accomplish—India has a very ancient civilization behind her, but she has also a great future before her. In the modern world she is only just beginning to wake out of a long sleep. She has been the cradle of many races but as a nation among nations she has still herself to make and her place to assert. In Industry, in Commerce, in Science, in Literature, in Art, in Politics, she needs more than ever before men and women with trained minds and upright characters—and the need for women is perhaps even greater than that for men. India needs you for her service and she expects that already in your college days you shall have acquired some of the qualities which will fit you for that service. Some of you have just received degrees of Master and Bachelor in Law, some in Medicine, some in Arts, and all of you have therefore begun to qualify for that last degree of all—the degree of Master of Life. I would ask you to believe that in all these matters in which you have specialized it is not the forms you make use of but the spirit in which you use them, the principles rather than the methods you adopt, which will secure for you that last degree. It is not the drugs which you dispense but the extent to which the pursuit of health is your goal that will enable you to bring credit to India as a doctor. It is not the composition of the courts or the forms of law which you practise but the extent to which justice is your aim that will enable you as a lawyer to set your country high in the estimation of the world. India will not thank you for changing the forms of her government and institutions unless thereby you can bring more health, more happiness, more prosperity to her people.

When you come to the end of life you will look back upon your college days and judge them by the rapidity or otherwise with which they brought you to that realization, which Emerson tells us comes some time in every man's education, that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide; that he must take himself for better, for worse, as his portion; that though the wide universe is full of good, no kernel of nourishing corn can come to him but through his toil bestowed on that plot of ground which is given to him to till." You will each of you have your plot to till in preparing for the harvest of the future, your part to play in building up the fabric of Indian nationhood. In this work two qualities will be required of you, sincerity and tolerance—to trust yourselves and to trust others. "Trust thyself; every heart vibrates to that iron string. Great men have always done so, and confided themselves childlike to the genius of their age, betraying their perception that the absolutely trustworthy was seated at their heart, working through their hands, predominating in all their being. And we are now men and must accept in the highest mind the same transcendent destiny; as guides, redeemers and benefactors, obeying the Almighty Effort and advancing on Chaos and the Dark." Could any words more fittingly describe the work which awaits the generation which in India to-day is just beginning its life work? When I think of all the problems, insoluble except to the eye of faith, of all the difficulties that have to be overcome, of all the diversities that have to be reconciled, I realize how great is the need for a generation rich in individuality, sincere in purpose, courageous in action.

For individual achievement these qualities may suffice, but if you are to be nation-builders there is another which is equally essential, indeed without which all other qualities are useless. That is tolerance; trust in others equal to the trust in yourself, the willingness to concede to all men the liberty you would yourself enjoy, that power to associate with others for a common good which the Vice-Chancellor has spoken of.

However shapely and well-proportioned a brick may be, however perfect the quality of stone or marble, they are useless as building material unless they possess the power to coalesce. The brick that insists on remaining a brick is useless except for the destructive purpose of being used as a missile. What India needs is not dynamite but cement, not brickbats but walls, men and women who will live for her rather than die for her. It is easy enough to die for a cause but to live for it is harder. To remain true to a cause throughout a life-time, to grow wiser and stronger in its service, to work for it always on the condition that no other is injured thereby—that is a task which will test a man to the utmost.

To such a task I hope you are prepared to devote yourselves and in the accomplishment of it to unite with all who share your ideals, regardless of the barriers of caste or creed.

Gentlemen, I have valued my association with your University during the five years in which it has been my privilege to be your Chancellor. I have sought to serve it. I hope that within the narrow limits which circumstances financial and

political permitted I have served it. The Vice-Chancellor has encouraged me to believe that some of the acts of my government during the last five years are recognized as having been beneficial. The stabilization of the Post-Graduate Department and the revision of the Matriculation regulations by which the Vernacular will be made a medium of instruction and examination are at least I hope solid achievements free from any element of controversy. The establishment of a Board of Secondary Education—a more debateable subject—has not yet been accomplished. We have, however, had several conferences which have narrowed the issues and brought the Government and the University nearer together. I am hopeful that this question is now ripe for settlement by agreement and though I may not see it accomplished I can, I think, regard it when it comes as a legacy of my period of office as Chancellor.

That it has not been given to me to see the achievement of those reforms which the University Commission considered essential will be to me in retirement a source of keen regret. It is sad to think that other Universities have derived more benefit from the labours of that Commission than this one with whose welfare they were exclusively occupied. Many of the weaknesses which they deplored remain unremedied, young lives are still cheated of their highest aspirations by inadequate teaching, the constitution of the University remains unreformed. But I leave you in hope rather than in despair, for, if during my term opinion has not been able to crystalize into action, if the forces opposing change have succeeded in checking not

only radical reform but even minor change, yet opinion in favour of reform has, I think, been growing and will before long express itself in an insistent demand for action. For Bengal knows that change in the present constitution of the University is essential though there is not yet agreement as to the exact nature of the change desired. This University claims the sentiment and devotion of Bengal in a way which no other institution in the Province can hope to emulate and the public which can now through its Minister control educational policy will, I am convinced, not tolerate obstruction to reform, for with their pride in the intellectual capacity of the Province they will not rest satisfied with anything but the best, nor will they allow reform to prejudice the permanent interests of the University. Changes will come and I shall watch them from afar with interest and with sympathy. And so I say farewell in hope and expectancy, confident that the harvest for which I have worked will be brought to maturity before many years have passed and that Bengal, which I have tried to serve will not rest, as I have never rested, until the grain glows golden and ripe for the harvester.

